

TCAS BENCHMARK

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 26, Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



February will be a good month for archeology activities. The East Texas Archeological Conference will be in Tyler on February 11, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission will be \$10.00 at the door, which is very reasonable. A few of us attended this conference last year and it was well worth the drive. Attending

events like this outside of our area helps to keep us informed of the archeology that is being conducted in other parts of the state and overall makes us better archeologists. There will be a carpool for this event, so if you don't want to drive by yourself be sure to put your name on the sign-up sheet at our February meeting.

On February 18 we will be returning to Saint Jo to finish the projects we previously started a couple of months ago. This will be a daylong event so bring your lunch, plenty of fluids, and some snacks. Last visit to Saint Jo, we all met at the Dairy Queen and then caravanned to the site so don't be late if you are joining us. The details on this event will be discussed at our general meeting.

As I mentioned last month, it is time to **renew your dues** for both TCAS and TAS. Please make sure you update your email address on the TCAS renewal form as well as listing your cell phone number. TCAS is asking for your cell number to give us a quick way of contacting you for cancellation of events, etc.

I want to thank Bryan Jameson, Carol Macaulay, Art Tawater and Jason Watts for supplying us with refreshments, and Sharon Beck for our coffee at the January meeting. There are only a couple of months that are taken on the refreshments sheet, so please think about adding your name to one of the vacant months. Usually two or three members commit for a month, so you don't have to bring everything, just a portion.

Katrina Nuncio

Calendar of Activities

FEBRUARY

9

**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

11

**19TH ANNUAL EAST TEXAS
ARCHEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE ~ TYLER
(SEE THE ARTICLE IN JANU-
ARY'S BENCHMARK)**

18

**RETURN TO SAINT JO
(MORE AT THIS MONTH'S
MEETING)**

MARCH

8

**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

3-4

**TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY
- CERAMICS: THE STORIES
FOUND IN POTTERY
~ COLLEGE STATION**

**26-
30**

**SHUMLA'S PECOS EXPERIENCE:
ARCHAIC ART
AND ARCHEOLOGY OF THE
LOWER PECOS**

Our condolences to Gen Freix on the passing of her father

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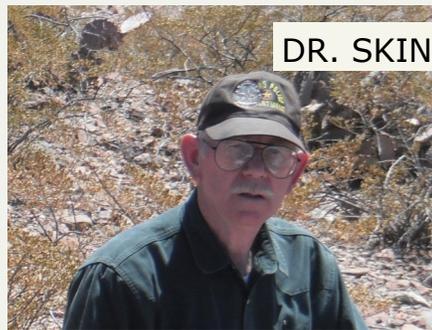
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FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Dr. Alan Skinner and Dr. Catrina Whitley **"The Tale of Two Cemeteries "**



DR. SKINNER



DR. WHITLEY

Low lake levels due to the recent extreme drought are exposing archaeological sites all across Texas. Historic and pre-Columbian burials are being found across the state, with numerous burials found here in the North Texas area. Fortunately, some of these burials are reported to the authorities, though many are gathered by well-meaning individuals "saving" the remains before they are looted. Historic graves are not always marked with permanent stone markers and evidence they exist can rapidly disappear as wooden tombstones decay and memories fade. Pre-Columbian remains seem to appear from the ether as burial pits may not be visible and their presence is rarely known until skeletal remains are exposed on the surface.

This talk will cover two recently discovered cemeteries here in North Texas. In 2009 a skull and vertebrae were found eroding from the shore of Richland/Chambers Lake. Though inundation of the area prevented excavation in 2009, water levels dropped to the point of exposure again in 2011. Additional skeletal remains were present along the eroded shore in 2011, prompting a survey of the area looking for additional graves. Scraping and survey found twenty-five graves on the shore of an island in Richland/Chambers. Wave action and inundation along the lake shore resulted in significant sediment removal in a very short period of time, with more than a half meter removed at this site in 20 years. Unfortunately, this scenario is not unusual along the lakes in drought ridden Texas.

Dr.'s Skinner and Whitley will discuss the discovery of the grave shafts, methods used to locate the remains, and what can be known about the cemetery just from analyzing a few artifacts and the morphology of the grave shafts.

(MORE ON PAGE 3)

MEET JERRY AND DEANA GRUBIS

By Mike Shannon

Jerry was born in Fort Worth, TX. After serving in the Army, he went to school at TCJC NW Campus receiving a degree in Agra Business. Ranching wasn't in the cards for Jerry so he went to work for the Texas Department of Transportation. After 32 1/2 years at TXDOT, Jerry retired and tries to fish as often as he can.

Deana was born in San Saba, TX. After going to Arlington State College out of high school, Deana went on to North Texas State University and received a degree in teaching. It was Deana who wanted to get teachers credit that drug Jerry to the 1990 field school at Utopia, TX. (Jerry didn't want to go.) It was in Utopia where Jerry dug into a very rare dart point with a hardly seen side notch of some kind. It was the topic of the 1990 Field School. Before the summer was over they were doing archeology in New Mexico.

Jerry and Deana are life time members of TCAS. Like most of our membership, they both have contributed greatly to archeology. One thing Jerry is well known for, besides being a hard worker, was the manufacturing of some of the most durable screens and shades. How many of us actually own a "Grubis Shade"? He was also one of the first to build showers at field school. I know a lot of us have had our turn building showers, but Jerry always had a plan when his turn came.

In finishing, I'd like to repeat what Jerry told me about the Grubis name. I believe he said that the French version meant "digger of holes". Anyone who worked with him in the early days knew this to be true.



MORE ABOUT FEBRUARY'S MEETING

Mortuary practices in Texas vary significantly depending upon the period and ancestry of those descendants responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery. The discussion will also include an overview of these cultural practices. The second cemetery they will discuss is a pre-Columbian early Late Archaic interment of four individuals. These remains were found by a fisherman and reported to the police department, who conducted the removal. The remains are from a second burial containing multiple individuals found within a 700 meter area and provides significant information regarding the early peoples of this area.

Both of these sites are significant to understanding the history of the DFW area, but, unfortunately, are also good examples of how delay in recovery or use of improper excavation methods can result in a detrimental loss of information about the archaeological record and lifestory of those who came before us.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

The National Park Service new Archaeological Distance learning program is free to the public and is a valuable program. Once the courses have been completed, the individual will receive a certificate from the Department of the Interior. I personally enrolled in the course and completed it. I was able to obtain much needed knowledge at no charge. My Current school reviewed the coursework and granted me 3 credits towards my degree in general studies.

Any questions concerning the course can be directed my way.

Thanks

Jason Watts 817 681 7394

Thanks for the lead, Jason. Here is an excerpt from the NPS website. For more information visit the site at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/TOOLS/distlearn.htm>



In a busy world, Distance Learning supports the pursuit of knowledge whenever it's convenient, wherever an internet connection is available. Challenge yourself with in-depth information, interactive quizzes and fascinating case studies, all at your own learning pace. Enjoy!

The program includes:

Managing Archeological Collections

Investigate the issues and activities involved in preserving and managing archeological collections from the field to the museum and over the long term. Check out the ten sections, each with an extensive bibliography, a page of links to related web sites, and a review quiz. A large glossary of key terms is linked throughout the site.

Archeology for Interpreters

Explore the world of archeology through online activities, illustrated case studies and fun facts to learn about basic archeological methods, techniques and up-to-date interpretations.

Interpretation for Archeologists

Learn methods and philosophies of interpretation for engaging the public's hearts and minds with archeological resources to encourage people to care about archeology and to develop an ethic of stewardship.

Study Tour of Archeological Interpretation

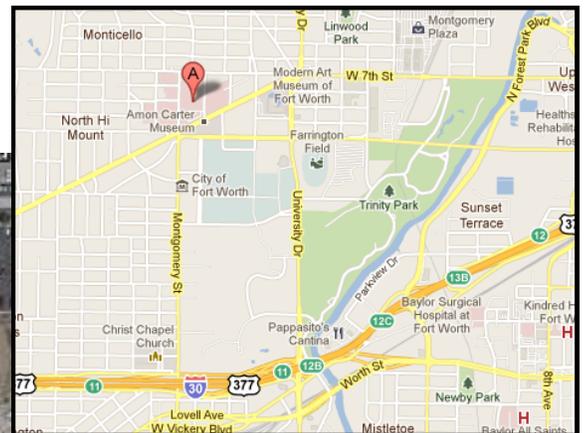
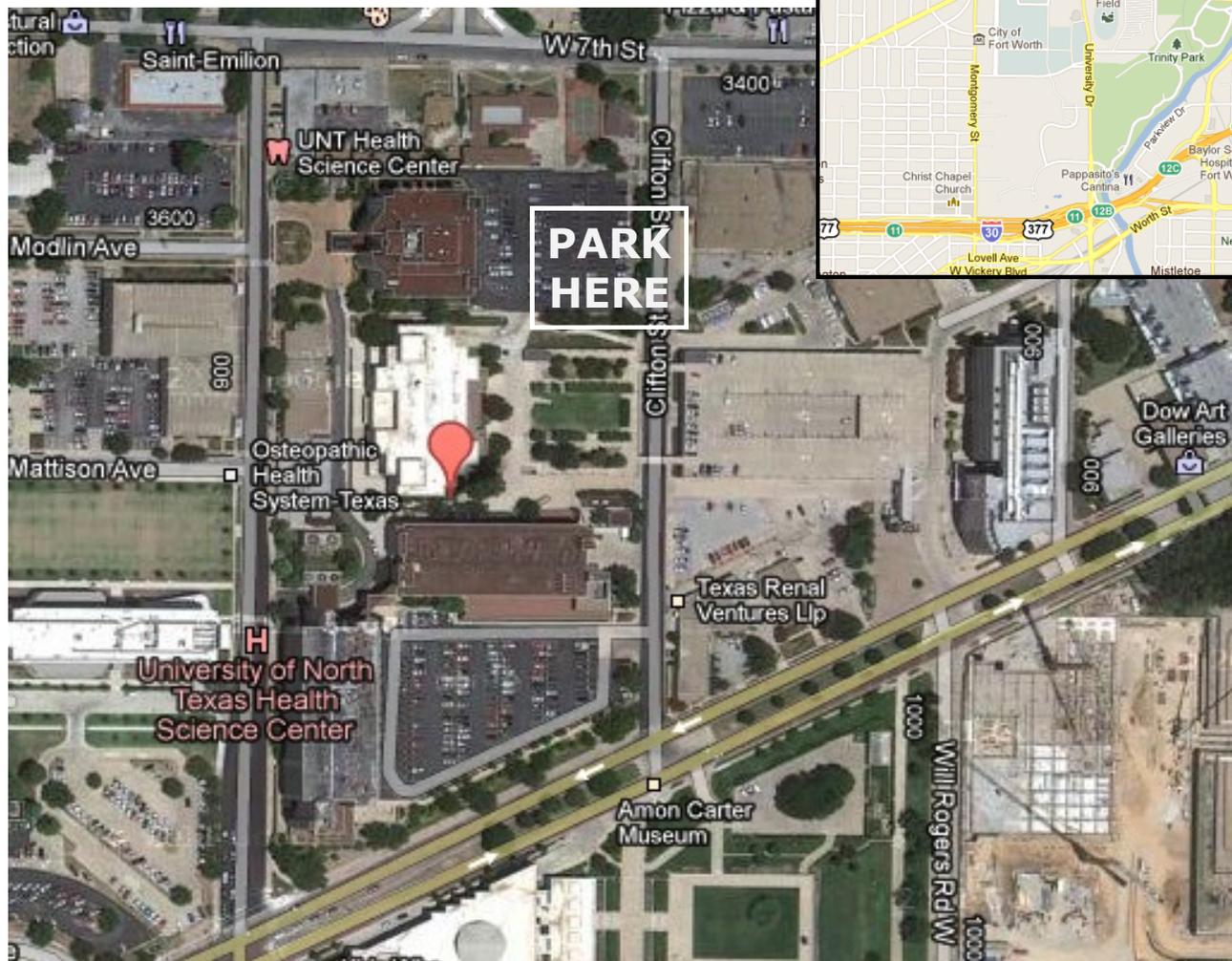
View interpretation with "fresh eyes" to evaluate choices and strategies for interpreting archeology in parks and historic sites. Download worksheets to assist in evaluating both onsite interpretation and virtual visits.

Assessment of Archeology Interpretation

Use the Interpretive Analysis Model to evaluate the effectiveness of interpretation on the basis of visitor experience at the levels of short-term outcomes, long-term outcomes, and audience feedback. Learn more about the National Park Service Evaluation Strategy.

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.



Dues are Due

TCAS membership dues are due. Please make sure you complete the Membership Renewal Form on the last page of this newsletter and give it, along with your dues, to either Paula or Katrina.

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+

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

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 GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

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