

TCAS BENCHMARK



JUNE, 2008

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A good number of TCAS members are planning to attend the 2008 Texas Archeological Society's annual Field School this month in the north-east part of the Texas Panhandle. At our last society meeting, Glynn Osburn gave us a great overview of what to expect there this year. By all indications, this may be one of the best Field Schools ever. Based on the

multitude of types of sites we will be investigating and working on; plus the physical size and magnitude of artifacts expected to be recovered, recorded and processed in the labs we could use a small army of volunteers. Our primary concern this year is will enough people attend due to the greater distance many will have to travel and the fact that fuel prices are rising on a daily basis? Those TCAS members among us who do attend will be very happy they attended. I would like to see members from our society who work at either the Halston, Chill Hill, or Evans Military sites, or who do survey or lab work will write a little paragraph or so for our next newsletter about their experiences at Field School this year.

TCAS had another good weekend turnout at the Sprague site on May 17th and 18th. That makes three months straight that we have had good participation there. Thanks to everyone who has made our work at Sprague so productive this past spring. Perhaps we should start calling it the Sprague Spring Training. I am quite sure that three, two-day events for three consecutive months will have many of our members in top physical condition, and the envy of everyone else at TAS Field School this year.

Hope to see you in Perryton,

Jay Hornsby

REMEMBER:

THERE'S NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JUNE

SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT — SEND YOUR FIELD SCHOOL ARTICLES AND PICTURES TO THE BENCHMARK FOR INCLUSION IN JULY'S NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Activities

JUNE

14-21	T.A.S 2008 FIELD SCHOOL Near Perryton
14-29	2008 Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program Jones Mill Site near Hot Springs (see page 2)
21	American Research Center in Egypt "Stump the Champs" Fondren Science Building SMU (see page 2)

JULY

10	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
19	American Research Center in Egypt "Constructing & Sailing an Ancient Egyptian Ship in the 21st Century" Fondren Science Building SMU (see page 2)

AUGUST

14	TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC
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OCTOBER

3-5	2008 Arkansas Archeological Society Annual Meeting Hot Springs (see page 2)
5-10	Pecos Experience Shumla School, Comstock
24-26	TAS Annual Meeting Lubbock

TCAS BENCHMARK

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ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PLANS UPCOMING EVENTS

Not to be outdone by the Texas Archaeological Society, the Arkansas Archeological Society will be holding their annual Training Program in June and Annual Meeting in October this year. For more information go to the AAS website at www.uark.edu/depts/4society/index.php?pages/home. Here is a more detailed look at both events.

JUNE 14-29 ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Begun in 1964 as an annual activity of the Arkansas Archeological Society under the direction of archeologists at the University of Arkansas Museum this program offers individuals interested in archeology opportunities to gain experience in all phases of archeological excavation, site survey, and laboratory processing under professional supervision

The sessions last two weeks each summer. Society members may participate for as long as they wish during the field program but are required to attend an orientation lecture before beginning any work. Evening lectures on a variety of topics are also provided during the session. All objects and information resulting from the field work will be curated by the Arkansas Archeological Survey for the benefit of the people of Arkansas.

All participants in the Training Program must be members of the Arkansas Archeological Society.

This year's program will be at the Jones Mill Site (3HS28) near Malvern (about 18 miles east of Hot Springs).

OCTOBER 3-5 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's AAS Annual Meeting will be held in Little Rock at the Arlington Hotel. Besides the opportunity to visit with friends and have a great time, the meeting offers a variety of activities.

Events start on Friday evening with a membership reception. On Saturday, papers on current archeological topics are presented by professional and amateur archeologists from throughout Arkansas, in a 20-minute format, usually with slides. The annual Business Meeting is held Saturday morning. On Saturday evening, a banquet is held, during which Society award are made. After the dinner, a Keynote Speaker makes a presentation on his or her work. On Sunday morning, trips to local museums or archeological sites are conducted.

A highlight of the meeting is the ARF Silent Auction. Many wonderful items, including books, artwork, posters, jewelry, etc., are donated to raise money for the Research Fund. In addition to the Silent Auction, books and reproductions are usually available for purchase, as well.

MEET THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

Brian Jameson was recently contacted by North Texas ARCE Program Director Laura Gilbreath to introduce their programs to TCAS. The chapter has been active on the SMU campus for many years and presents a full yearly schedule of free lectures with an Egyptian slant.

Ms. Gilbreath has invited TCAS member to attend the lectures; an opportunity we should not pass up especially with the upcoming King Tut exhibit in October. Their meetings (usually 3rd Saturdays) begin at 7:00 with refreshments followed by the meeting official opening at 7:30. The meetings are in room 123 of Fondren Hall at SMU. For more information their website is www.arce-ntexas.org.

The June 21st meeting is entitled "Stump the Champs / Question and Answer Session with Egyptian Experts"

The July 19th meeting is presented by Dr. Cheryl Ward, Florida State University and titled "Constructing and Sailing an Ancient Egyptian Ship in the Twenty-First Century"

If you attend an ARCE meeting let the Benchmark know about your experience.

TCAS BENCHMARK

A POGO POINT FROM WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

Jesse Todd

My father- and mother-in-law (John and Bobby Knapp) who live on the north shore of Lake Hawkins had a load of sand brought in for their back yard brought in from a pit on Lake Fork Creek. After a rain, a Pogo point was found by my mother-in-law which is illustrated in Figure 1. According to Suhm and Jelks (1962:163), the Pogo point is “large triangular to leaf-shaped with considerable variation in edges from concave to straight and convex. Shoulders vary from square to well barbed. Stems are slightly contracting in some cases, parallel-edged in others. Bases are straight to convex.” They further add that the points are found on Archaic to Late Caddoan and possibly to historic times and are usually made out of novaculite from either western Arkansas or eastern Oklahoma. Also, points may be made from ferruginous sandstone, flint or chert. No specific site was mentioned where the points were found, just eastern Texas. The point is approximately 94.3 mm long and 46.1 mm wide at the base of the tangs. The base is 19.3 X 19.3 mm. The thickness is 11.8 mm. The point is made from either novaculite or chert.

Today, it appears that Pogo points are not considered points (Turner and Hester 1985). Bill Young, Archeological Steward for Navarro County, believes that the points are really back-tang knives. In his description of the Knight’s Bluff site, Jelks (1961:18) mentions that a Pogo point, as described by Suhm and others (1954), made out of novaculite was discovered at the left hip of a male skeleton in Burial 5. The location of the point would indicate it that one of the potential uses of the lithic tool was that of a knife.

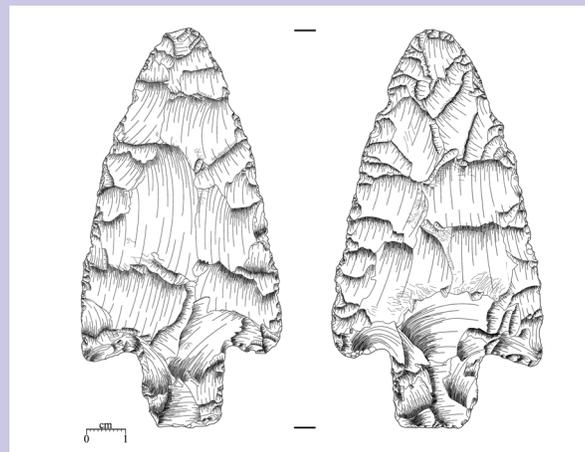


Figure 1. Pogo point from Wood County, Texas. Illustrated by Lance K. Trask.

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1961 Excavations at Texarkana Reservoir, Sulphur River, Texas. In *River Basin Surveys*. Frank H. Roberts, Editor, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 179, Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C., pp. 1-78, 17 plates.

Suhm, Dee Ann and Edward B. Jelks, Editors

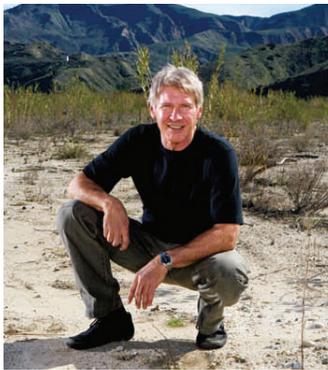
1962 *Handbook of Texas Archeology: Type Descriptions*. Special Publications Number One, The Texas Archeological Society and Bulletin Number 4, The Texas Memorial Museum, The University of Texas, Austin.

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1954 An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 25.

Turner, Sue Ellen and Thomas R. Hester

1985 *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Texas Monthly Press, Austin.



Harrison Ford Elected to AIA Board

AIA News
May 16, 2008

"Indiana Jones" shows his commitment to real archaeology.

After years of being identified on screen as the legendary archaeologist "Indiana Jones," actor Harrison Ford has won election to the Board of Directors of the Archaeological Institute of America. With his *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* set to hit U.S. movie theaters on May 22, the film star commented on his real world dedication to archaeology, "Knowledge is power, and understanding the past can only help us in dealing with the present and the future."

The Archaeological Institute of America is North America's oldest and largest non-profit organization devoted to archaeology. With more than a quarter of a million members and subscribers and 105 local chapters, it promotes archaeological excavation, research, education, and preservation on a global basis. At the core of its mission is the belief that an understanding of the past

enhances our shared sense of humanity and enriches our existence. As archaeological finds are a non-renewable resource, the AIA's work benefits not only the current generation, but also those yet to come in the future.

"Harrison Ford has played a significant role in stimulating the public's interest in archaeological exploration," said Brian Rose, President of the AIA. "We are all delighted that he has agreed to join the AIA's Governing Board."

In addition, the current May/June issue of *ARCHAEOLOGY* magazine, published by the AIA, features a cover story devoted to the mysteries surrounding the alleged crystal skull archaeological finds that inspired the new "Indiana Jones" film. For the complete article, go to www.archaeology.org.

The Associated Press
Published: May 13, 2008

'Indiana Jones': Real archaeologists don't have whips

LOS ANGELES: Indiana Jones managed to retrieve the trinket he was after in the opening moments of "Raiders of the Lost Ark." He pretty much wrecked everything else in the ancient South American temple where the little gold idol had rested for millennia.

Though he preaches research and good science in the classroom, the world's most famous archaeologist often is an acquisitive tomb raider in the field with a scorched-earth policy about what he leaves behind. While actual archaeologists like the guy and his movies, they wouldn't necessarily want to work alongside him on a dig.

"There are codes of ethics in archaeology, and I don't think he would be a member. Not in good standing, anyway," said Mark Rose, online editorial director for the Archaeological Institute of America.

In a career spanning 27 years and three previous films, Indy has been both a blessing and curse for the musty world of archaeology, fanning interest in the field beyond academic circles but doing a Hollywood number on how the job actually works.

In 1989's "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," nerdy Professor Henry Jones Jr. tells students that 70 percent of archaeology is done in the library and advises them to "forget any ideas you've got about lost cities, exotic travel and digging up the world. We do not follow maps to buried treasure, and 'X' never, ever marks the spot."

Trading his classroom tweeds for his leather jacket and fedora hat, his alter-ego Indiana Jones then proceeds to smash through crypts, kill scores of Nazis and desecrate a grave by using a human leg bone as a torch. And, in one scene, "X" literally does mark the spot.

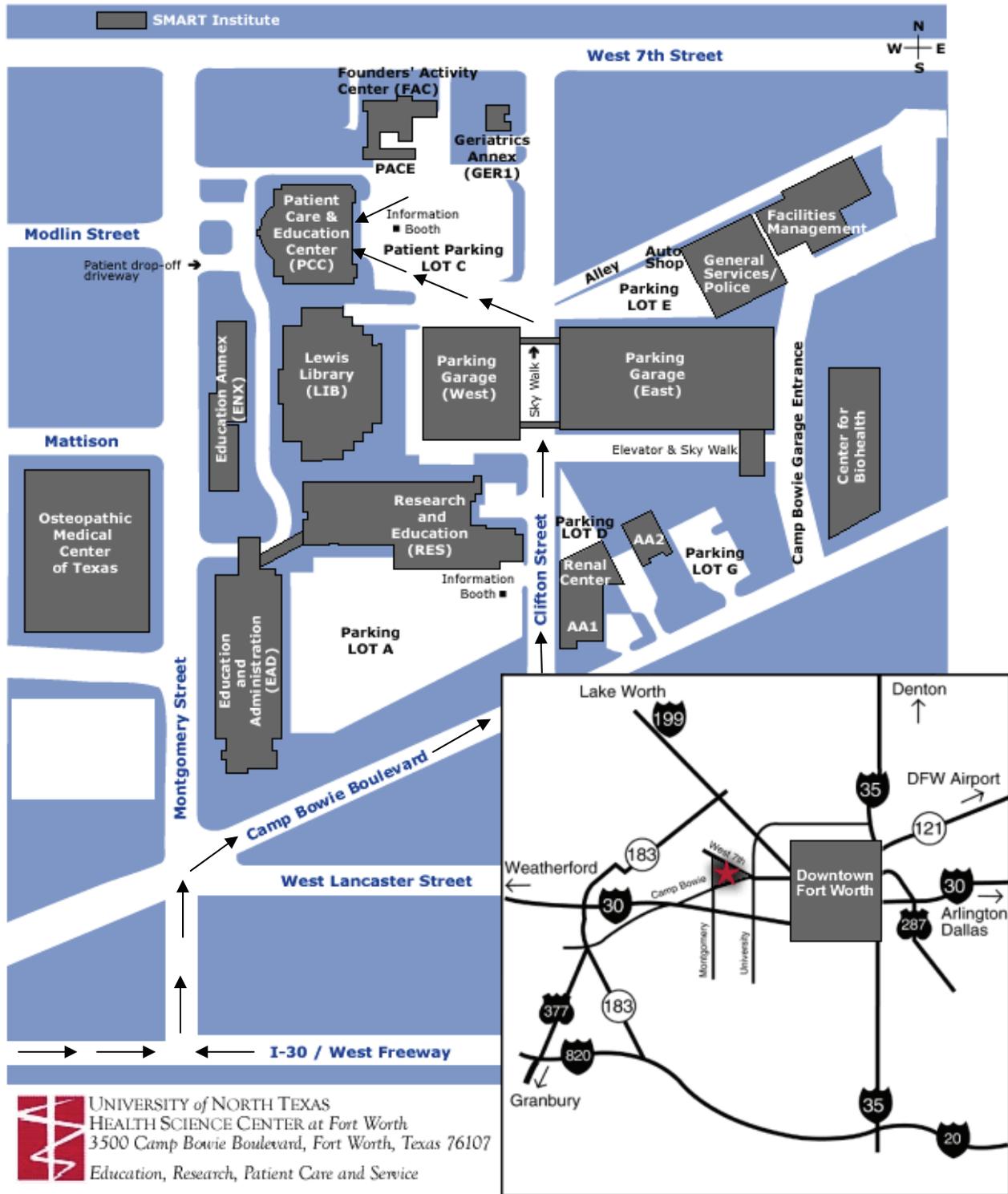
The reality of archaeological field work is not a lone hero dashing into hidden chambers with a bullwhip and a pistol and coming away with a priceless relic. It's large groups of academics and students painstakingly sifting through grids to retrieve artifacts as mundane as pottery fragments.

"I spent a lot of time walking in cornfields and soy bean fields in the Midwest, and nothing very dramatic ever happened while I was out looking for artifacts," said Rose of the Archaeological Institute, whose trustees include Indy star Ford.

"To be honest, it's a lot of drudge work. You can end up producing a 600-page Ph.D dissertation, and it's important and useful and it's good that someone has done it. But it's not going to be made into a major motion picture anytime soon."



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 _____

I want my newsletter delivered by ___ **Email** ___ **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 ground for expulsion from the Society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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