



# TCAS BENCHMARK

SEPTEMBER 2012

Volume 26, Issue 9

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, we made it through another Texas summer. For me the summer just flew by this year and we now find ourselves in September with the welcome relief of fall weather right around the corner.

This September meeting marks the time of the year that we address upcoming vacancies on our board of directors. Recommendations from the board and nominations from our membership for these vacant positions will be received at the September general meeting. Elections will take place at the November general meeting.

It is also time to make plans and register for the 2012 Texas Archeological Society's Annual Meeting that will take place on October 26-28, in Tyler. You can link to the online or PDF registration pages from the "Upcoming TAS Events" on the TAS Home Page ([www.txarch.org/index.php](http://www.txarch.org/index.php)), or from the 2012 TAS Annual Meeting Home Page ([www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2012/](http://www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2012/)). In addition to registration details, this webpage has links to maps showing event localities, hotel information, details on donating Silent Auction items. If you can't remember where you stashed your last TAS newsletter, here is a quick way to recover that information and get right to registering for Annual Meeting. You can complete your registration electronically or print and fill in the registration PDF to mail in with a check.

I would like to thank Susan and James Everett for supplying our refreshments at our August meeting, and Sharon Beck for faithfully supplying us with coffee.

Katrina Nuncio

## Calendar of Activities

### SEPTEMBER

13

**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING  
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 7)**

**THRU  
SEPT  
14**

**A PHOTOGRAPHIC  
JOURNEY ALONG EL  
CAMINO REAL DE LOS  
TEJAS  
(SEE AUGUST BENCHMARK)**

15

**SAVE TEXAS HISTORY  
SYMPOSIUM  
~ AUSTIN ~  
(SEE AUGUST BENCHMARK)**

### OCTOBER

4-6

**17TH BIENNIAL  
MOGOLLON  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
CONFERENCE  
~ SILVER CITY, NM ~  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT  
[WWW.WNMUSEUM.ORG/  
M\\_CONFERENCE2012.HTML](http://WWW.WNMUSEUM.ORG/M_CONFERENCE2012.HTML)**

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**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING  
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 7)**

26-28

**TAS ANUAL MEETING  
~ TYLER ~  
(see page 3)**

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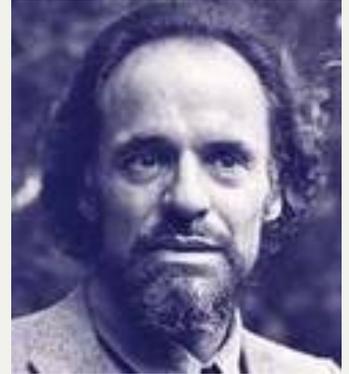
## **SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

*People of the Water: Change and Continuity Among the Uru-Chipayans of Bolivia*

## **JOE BASTIEN**

Presentation is a synopsis of *People of the Water* which is an analysis of the cultural practices of Chipayans.

The Chipayans of Santa Ana are part of the Uru-Chipayan Nation, five groups that were confederated in the early 1990s. All groups of Uru-Chipayans, numbering 15,000 adults in 1530), are descendants of fishers and bird hunters who since A.D. 600 have lived along the waterways of the Peruvian and Bolivian Altiplano. They provided fish and game for the Aymaras, Incas, Quechuas, and Spaniards and continue to do so for present-day Peruvians and Bolivians.



This presentation contains an ethnographic description of their symbols, rituals, legends, and customs. We see that Chipayans are becoming educated and politicized, picking their way through a transformed landscape in which environmental issues, community solidarity, cultural identity, and political reforms coexist with alluring new possibilities of change and self-identity. As one Chipayan said, "Our land is opening up; we can no longer stay here. There are unlimited possibilities in Bolivia and Chile." So, too, their cultural practices contain the struggle between being Chipayan and being Bolivian.

Joseph W. Bastien is a professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Bastien received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1973. He has done research in Latin America since 1963. His major publications are *Mountain of the Condor: Metaphor and Ritual in an Andean Ayllu*, *Health in the Andes*, co-edited with John Donahue, *Healers of the Andes: Kallawayas Herbalists and Their Medicinal Plants*, *Drum and Stethoscope: Integrating Ethnomedicine and Biomedicine in Bolivia*, *La Montana del Condor*, and *The Kiss of Death: Chagas' Disease in the Americas*. He is actively involved in the use of Bolivian medicinal plants for curing AIDS, and together with scientists has discovered an effective treatment for this disease that would lessen by a third the dosage presently required.

## 2012 TAS ANNUAL MEETING

Exhibits and Speakers and Papers, oh my! All of that and much more is scheduled for the 2012 TAS Annual Meeting to be held at the University of Texas at Tyler on October 25-28, 2012. The schedule is jam packed with events. Here is a sampling; for more information visit the meeting website at [www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2012/index.php](http://www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2012/index.php)

**Thursday** We kick off with an informal gathering on Thursday evening at Coyote Sam's. Pick-up food will be provided through the generosity of the Department of Cultural and Behavioral Sciences at Stephen F. Austin State University. Stop worrying....Coyote Sam's has a full bar...and if you are still hungry, they have a great menu



**Friday morning** The next day, everything will occur in the UT-Tyler University Center. In the morning there will be various committee meetings and in the afternoon, the Silent Auction and Exhibit Rooms will open and the first presentations will be scheduled

### **The Public Forum 7:00 pm on Friday**



Dr. Kent Reilly from Texas State University will speak on the topic of cosmology and Symbolism of southeastern Indian groups at the Public Forum Friday night.

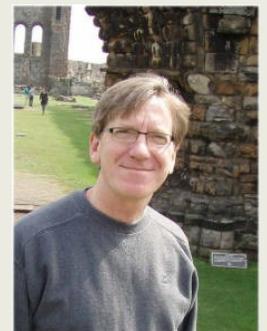
### **Following the Public Forum**

A Careers in Archeology Social and Artifact Identification will follow the forum. Archeological firms and agencies will set up displays to encourage questions about archeological work in Texas and about pursuing careers in archeology. This Friday night event is open to the public, and they are encouraged to bring in artifacts for discussion with a panel prepared to assess both type and dates or related information about the artifacts.

**Saturday** Saturday morning activities begin at 8:00 am, with several concurrent sessions offering papers, posters, and table discussions. The Poster Sessions allow detailed discussion of special topics

**Business Meeting** Your registration fee includes a lunch to be served at the TAS Business Meeting on Saturday where officers are elected, budgets approved, and general TAS business is conducted.

**The Banquet at 7:00 pm, Saturday** Our Banquet speaker will be Dr. Tim Pauketat of the University of Illinois whose work has elevated studies of the Mississippian period to a new level. Some of his recent books include: Cahokia: Ancient America's Great City on the Mississippi; Chiefdoms and Other Archaeological Delusions (Issues in Eastern Woodlands Archaeology); An Archaeology of the Cosmos: Rethinking Agency and Religion in Ancient America; and The Archaeology of Traditions: Agency and History Before and After Columbus.



**Our own Linda and Brett Lang are in charge of registration! Please be kind to them by registering early. Registration online and by snail mail can be found by following the link above or visiting the TAS website.**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### MEET DANA RITCHIE PARKER

By Mike Shannon

Meet Dana Ritchie Parker of Weatherford, Texas. Born in Irving and raised in Arlington. Dana has a husband Scott, a 3-year old son Ozzie, and a 16-year old step-daughter Reign. Right now she earns a living as the Financial Director at the Kinderplatz of Fine Arts for children in Fort Worth.

Dana became interested in archaeology while in elementary school, spending summers on her family farm in North Carolina. Finding old glass and buttons in a Civil War era area was pretty fascinating.

Dana holds a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Texas Wesleyan University and a Masters Degree in Anthropology from UTA, with the focus on the biological and archaeological side of anthropology. Her Master's thesis was on the Maya in Belize where she spent a summer in the field and a couple of years in the lab at UTA.

Currently she is writing a chapter of the final report on archaeological investigations of the Riley (41TR134) and the Fountain Sites (41TR136) on Village Creek. She is serving on the Anti-Looting Committee of the Council of Texas Archeologists. When she isn't working or digging, Dana volunteers at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office working to recover, ID, or determine cause of death of human skeletal remains.

Dana would like to thank the TCAS, TAS, and all societies that are instrumental in the preservation of Texas archaeology.



## AREA HAPPENINGS

### O.U. ARCHAEOLOGISTS FINISH BISON KILL SITE EXCAVATION

by Paighthen Harkins

The Oklahoma Daily

August 30, 2012

This summer, a team of OU archeologists finished excavating a bison kill site that hadn't been touched by humans in thousands of years.

The site was last visited by humans in the Folsom Age — which was more than 10,000 years ago, said K.C. Carlson, field director of the excavation.

The team found the skeletal remains of more than a dozen bison, some Folsom points — weapons used to kill bison — and some of the butchering tools Paleoindians used to cut up the animals, OU archeologist Leland Bement said. "The last people to see [the bones] were the ones butchering the bison," Carlson said.

The Badger Hole kill site excavation was a continuation of the OU Archeological Survey's project to excavate a number of bison kill sites along the Beaver River in Northwest Oklahoma, Carlson said.

This was the second year the team had been excavating the site, so they knew what to expect when they were digging around in the sticky red dirt, but that didn't take away from the excitement of finding something, she said. "[Finding remains] is a cool feeling," she said. "It's always neat to see butcher marks because that's the human element of the kills."

The exact number of remains and artifacts that were found is undetermined at this time because the team is still analyzing its findings, Bement said.



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## IN THE NEWS

### ARCHAEOLOGISTS SEEK ANSWERS AT LATEST IDAHO EXCAVATIONS

By ERIC BARKER

The Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune

August 18, 2012

COOPERS FERRY, Idaho (AP) – Archaeological digs along the lower Salmon and North Fork Clearwater rivers are expanding what scientists know about the prehistory of the Pacific Northwest and may help revolutionize what is known about the first people to inhabit North America.

To a large extent, that revolution already is under way. Recently published discoveries at Paisley Caves in south-central Oregon knocked holes into a long-held theory about the peopling of the New World. An excavation at Coopers Ferry, near Cottonwood along the lower Salmon River, and another dig near the confluence of Kelly Creek with the North Fork Clearwater River, may bolster a competing theory about who the first Americans were and teach us about the way they lived.

In 1997, Oregon State University archaeologist Loren Davis discovered a cache of stone tools at Coopers Ferry that, according to radio carbon dating, are more than 13,000 years old.

This summer, and in future years, he and his students are expanding the site, which probably was a seasonal village, and looking for more artifacts. As they slowly work their way down through time and layers of earth, they hope to confirm the site holds clues that are among the oldest evidence of humans on the continent.

Items in the cache included projectile points, tools for making stone points and raw materials for making the tools. "Sometimes, we talk about it in terms of ... an equipment locker somebody basically put in the ground, and they could come back and open it up and use it," Davis said. "To be able to envision the use of the landscape from this place through the kinds of tools and features we see in the ground, that is exciting.

"If ultimately, the bottom part of the site ends up being 13,000 calendar years old or older, it will be as important as Paisley, if not more important because Paisley Caves doesn't have a lot of artifacts. It's pretty lean on artifacts," he said.

But Paisley has proved to be rich in important data. Davis is part of a team that meticulously documented human use at the site dating back more than 14,000 years.

They discovered fossilized human feces known as coprolites more than 14,300 years old and a different style of projectile points, known as Western stemmed points, that are nearly 13,000 years old. The dates are important because the coprolites are older than any Clovis points found on the continent. While the stone points are not as old, they represent a different technology than Clovis points.

A debated theory says the Clovis people crossed a land bridge between northeastern Asia and North America, and proceeded south from present-day Yukon to Alberta, Canada, and into Montana through a corridor between ice fields.

They made distinctive projectile points, which were first discovered near Clovis, N.M., and have since been found in many places east of the Rockies. According to the "Clovis First" theory, these people were the first on the continent, and the ancestors of all Native Americans. Under that theory, all other styles of stone points descended from the Clovis tradition. But the evidence at Paisley, where Western stemmed points were discovered and no Clovis points were found, indicates otherwise.



Laura Longstaff, a graduate student at the University of Idaho, catalogs artifacts uncovered at an archaeological dig near Kelly Creek in the Clearwater National Forest in north-central Idaho.

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"We keep digging holes in the landscape down to the time period that should contain Clovis and we can't find any, so the question is where are they?" Davis asked. "Maybe we already found them and they are not Clovis peoples. They are Western stemmed peoples and they truly represent a different but contemporaneous tradition."

Western stemmed points have been found throughout the Northwest and the style correlates closely but not exactly to a style of weapons made by early people in northeastern Asia. Dating them to 13,000 years ago represents another problem for the Clovis theory, Davis said. At that time, ice sheets would have blocked the theorized route of the Clovis, but the West Coast of the continent would have been free of ice.

"Clovis people may have indeed come down through the ice-free corridor, but later, and they may have encountered a population in the West that was already established and holding down ground."

At Kelly Creek, University of Idaho archaeologist Lee Sappington unearthed stone tools ranging from 12,000 to just a few hundred years old.

"Where we got deep, we get dates in the range of (8,000, 10,000), 11,000 years and right down to contact with the gravel where the river used to be, right around 12,000 (years)," he said. "In the whole Clearwater drainage, the heart of Nez Perce country, the absolute oldest site is right there at the casino at Hatwai and – give or take 100 years – this is just as old, and it might be a little older."



Researchers at the University of Idaho are studying a number of artifacts, ranging from 12,000 to 200 years old found at a dig site on Kelly Creek, such as this spear point.

Artifacts uncovered include projectile points, stone knives and scrapers, fishing weights and tools called shaft abraders, which were used to make arrows and darts. The site probably was more of a camp than a village, but it was used over and over again for many generations.

"Based on our dates and the types of tools we are finding, people have been going to the site for the last 10,000 years, hunting and working on their tools," said Laura Longstaff, a graduate student who worked on the dig and is writing a thesis about it. "We have a lot of debris that is left over from when they were flaking their tools, so they spent a lot of time there just working on their tools and making them."

She will try to interpret the artifacts, when and where they were found, to paint a picture about the people who left them and how they lived. The dig uncovered tools made from a wide variety of sources, almost none of it local, which may speak to the distances people traveled to get there.

"We have sources from Montana, Oregon and southern Idaho, so it was definitely a known stopping place for people," Longstaff said. "They communicated it to their children or to their friends or other bands or tribes, so it was kind of a place that was on the map."

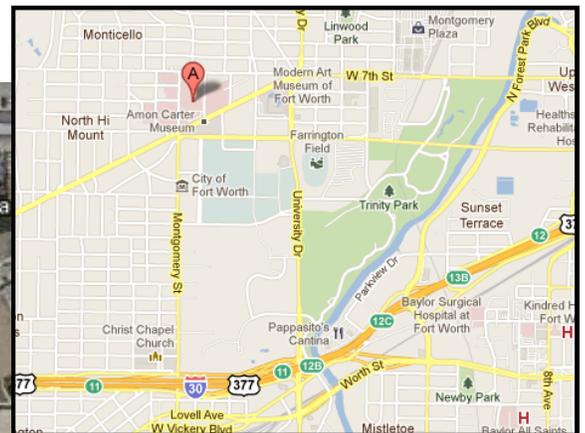
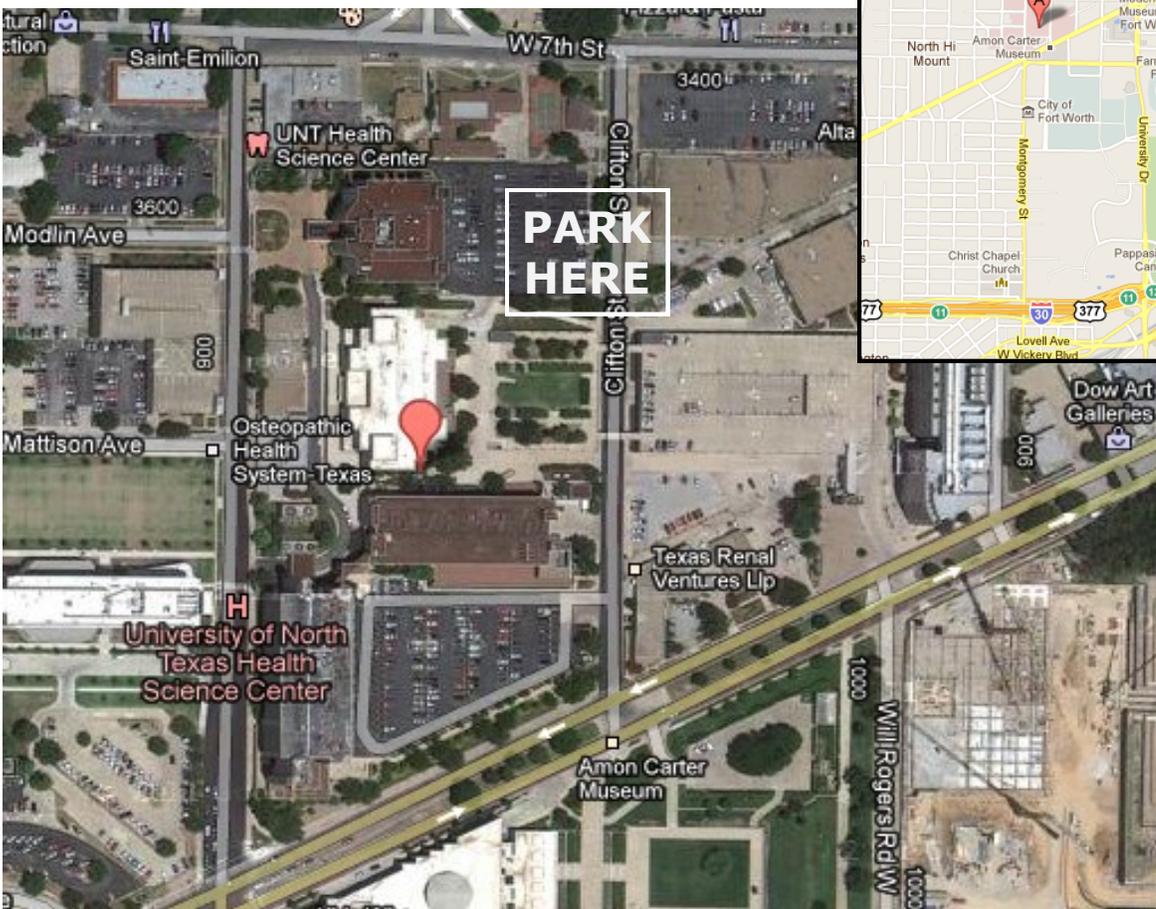
Many of the points and scraping tools have tested positive for animal protein, indicating they were used to kill or process game. Lab work indicates the people hunted small game like rabbits and large animals such as moose and bison.

The site is near the Kelly Forks Work Center, and the dig was funded by the U.S. Forest Service. Sappington said it's unique because it is remote, most of it hasn't been disturbed by past development and it is not going to be destroyed by something like a highway or a road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COOPER'S FERRY SITE INCLUDING VIDEOS OF THE DIGS VISIT: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CoopersFerrySite>

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.



## FROM PAGE 4

OU's team butchered a bison using the primitive, stone tools the Paleoindians would have used, Carlson said. "[Butchering the bison] was a really neat experience because we spend so much time in the lab looking at these butcher marks," she said. "To really make sense of those was really cool." Members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes who donated the bison to the team helped butcher the bison, Carlson said.

The sites the team have excavated date back to right after the extinction of the mammoth at the end of the last ice age, Bement said they are important because they highlight the development of the Paleoindians' hunting strategies, which stuck with them for the next 10,000 years.

The team is finished with excavating the Badger Hole site for now, but they will continue to monitor the area for any new discoveries that are made, Carlson said.

# TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

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RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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FAMILY \$25.00

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(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

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