

HCAA General Meeting – March 15, 2014

Title: The Gatlin Site (41KR621) in Kerrville: Prehistoric Living Re-visited

Speaker: Eric Oksanen



Abstract :

The Gatlin Site spans more than 6,000 years of human activity. Who did what, when, how, and why? Sifting through the enormous assemblage of artifacts and features, we examine how the site was used and changed through time and critique the decisions made in the analyses.

Speaker's Background:

Mr. Oksanen is currently District Archeologist for the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Division.

Eric graduated from the University of Toronto in 1994, with a degree in History. While there, he studied history and archaeometry in a joint physics and archeology program. Since then he has been here in Texas working in, and studying Texas archeology. In 2003 Mr. Oksanen entered a Masters degree program in Anthropology with an Archaeology Specialty, at Texas State-San Marcos. This was with the inaugural Texas State-San Marcos Anthropology Graduate Studies class. He received his Master Degree from Texas State-San Marcos in 2008. While there he worked as a Project Archeologist for Dr. Britt Bousman, Director for the Center for Archeology Studies (CAS) and from CAS he was hired by SWCA.

His work at Texas State focused on Early Archaic sites and Kevin Miller of SWCA hired him after graduation to complete a report for the TxDOT project on a site in Kerrville-41KR621—the Gatlin Site. He had no other duties and soon discovered he was the fourth author to attempt to complete this report—which he eventually did.

Eric was subsequently hired by Dr. Steve Tomka Director for the Center of Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR), to join Dr. Tomka's staff as a Research Scientist and Project Archeologist. At CAR, Eric directed a series of data recovery excavations along the San Antonio River that encountered evidence of prehistoric structures. In addition to data recovery excavations, he was also under contract as a District Archeologist to TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division.

In 2012, he was hired as a full time TxDOT archeologist by Dr. Scott Pletka, Supervisor of the Archeology Studies Program, and Eric assumed the responsibility for the district from the retiring Al McGraw-the TxDOT archeologist who was the reviewer and project manager of the Gatlin Site project and report.