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CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

July 16, 2011

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center

SAVE THE DATE!

HCAA'S

ARCHEOLOGICAL

CELEBRATION IN 2011

IS SET FOR OCTOBER 8

AT RIVERSIDE NATURE

CENTER



2011 HCAA Field Trip: THE GAULT SITE

Members of the Hill Country Archeological Association arrived at the site at approximately 10:00am, May 23, 2011. Dr. Clark Wernecke, of the Gault School, conducted the tour.

The tour began at an old rail road car built circa 1908. It had been used as a storage area on the ranch. The car had wooden interior walls and cypress beams on the ceiling.

The Gault site is near Florence, Texas which was, at one time (1910's-20's), a large center for cotton growth and ginning. With the onslaught of the boll weevil and a prolonged drought, the cotton business in the area went bust.

Per Clark, there is an area of Georgetown limestone which is mined locally for building stone. The Edwards limestone is prevalent at the surface and several springs occur in the area at the base of the Edwards where it sits on the impermeable Comanche Peak limestone.

The Gault site is in an "ecotone" which is a transition area between two prominent ecosystems, in this case, the hill country to the north west and the black land prairie to the east, south east. In pre-historic times, in the area there was cedar and prickly pear cactus but both were not widespread as today due to

wild fires.

The Columbian mammoth was the only mammoth which occupied the Gault area and the hill country during the Pleistocene period. The Woolly mammoth was only as far south as Hot Spring, Arkansas to the north. Clark demonstrated the atlatl. His main shaft was over 6 foot long. They have done tests of throwing darts via atlatls into ballistic jelly and it does very destructive damage. He indicated that modern atlatl throwers have established a world record throw of 800 feet. He cited a recent example of an atlatl used by a dentist from Louisiana who threw at an elephant on a hunt in Zimbabwe. The second throw struck the elephant with a dart attached to a main shaft only (no fore shaft used). The elephant ran for approximately one mile and died.

Clark also stated that the perfect physics and aerodynamics of atlatl throwing indicate that the main shaft should be one foot longer than the height of the person throwing. The Gault School does not believe that most atlatls used in prehistory had fore shafts. They believe that a dart attached to a main shaft only would do major tissue damage as the shaft wiggled about in the animal as it would run away.

Continued on p.2



Dr. Wernecke

Pictures courtesy of Rudi Winzinger



Members of HCAA and overlooking the current excavation at Gault

Continued from p. 1

Clark said that in Paleo Indian times the chance of getting past age 5 was slim but if so, there was no reason to believe that an individual couldn't live to 60 or 70. He said the high death rate in the young is what averaged the life expectancy of 30-40 quoted in archeology texts.

He indicated: that the hunter gather groups of Paleo times were likely 10-15 individuals, that Paleo Indian bifaces typically are better than in Archaic times, that Paleo bifaces are thinner and sharper, and that Clovis technology has been found from Canada to Venezuela.

The majority of our tour was in a shallow valley with abundant flint out cropping from the Edwards limestone on the valley slopes. A spring fed creek (never observed to go dry in historic times) also ran through a portion of the valley and near the most recent area of excavation.

We passed by one site in the valley where a small mammoth had been butchered. There were also associated Clovis points. The excavation had been filled in. At another area there were butchered horse remains found in the lower Clovis level but not in the upper Clovis level. Clark indicated that the horse had likely gone extinct in North America before Archaic times began.

We observed an area where the largest midden in Texas had existed. The area was extensively plundered

and excavated in the past and mounding of the midden was not easily observed. It was estimated however, that the midden had originally been 800 feet long, 100 feet wide and 6 feet high. Gault also contains a burned rock midden at another area that is +/- 10,000 years old, probably the oldest midden in North America.

Gault site has excavated 2.8 million Clovis artifacts from only 3% of the site area. They have excavated a stone structure (stone floor) at a Clovis level, approximately 7 feet by 7 feet. It was 4 feet below the surface. Bed rock there is 20 feet.

Clark speculated that the "ice corridor" between the Laurentian and Cordilleran glacial sheets in the north west of north America during the end of the last glacial, was probably very swampy due to melt water, and cold. He therefore, speculated that the human migration may not have come that way but rather along the coast of the Northwest which is now under 300-400 feet of water (the excess glacial ice would have lowered the sea level by 300-400 feet).

The oldest earth oven found at Gault was Clovis age and at the bottom of the excavation (under the tent) currently in progress.

Gault archeologists use bamboo tools to excavate so as not to scratch artifacts while digging.

The tour concluded at approximately 12 pm and all personnel had lunch before driving back to Kerrville.

Article submitted by Steve Stoutamire

Kristi Ulrich to speak on July 16 to HCAA

Make plans to attend the HCAA General Meeting on Saturday July 16, 2011 at 12:30 pm when our guest speaker will be Kristi Ulrich.

Ms. Ulrich did her undergraduate work receiving a B.A. in Anthropology, from the University of San Diego, in 1998. She received her M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at San Antonio, 2004, writing her thesis on *Merging Cultures: a comparison of native and colonial ceramics from Mission San Juan de Capistrano, San Antonio, Texas.*



Ms. Ulrich joined the Center for Archaeological Research The University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR) staff in June of 1998. She has experience working on many types of archaeological projects, though her expertise is the archaeology of Spanish Colonial and Historic sites, with special emphasis on Spanish Colonial ceramics. Ms. Ulrich serves CAR as a project archaeologist, principal investigator, and assistant to the Laboratory Director. During the summer of 2007, Ms. Ulrich served as the Project Archaeologist and Instructor of the UTSA Archaeological Field School hosted at the Alamo. Recently, Ms. Ulrich, in collaboration with Anne A. Fox, produced a manual outlining the Spanish Colonial Ceramics commonly encountered at Texas sites.

Ms. Ulrich will be speaking on a pedestrian archaeological survey of a proposed hike and bike path and data recovery excavations of portions of Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. During November 2010, The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted the sur-

vey. Dr. Steve Tomka, CAR Director, served as Principal Investigator, Jennifer L. Thompson served as Project Archaeologist during the portion of the project that occurred in November 2010 and Kristi Miller Ulrich served as Project Archaeologist during portion of the project that occurred in April 2011. Artifacts recovered from the six units excavated during the survey in the data recovery included a Clearfork Adze, Guadalupe tools, Angostura points, St. Mary's Hall points, and a Dalton point. Radiocarbon dating of samples collected from Unit 7 produced interesting results. The archaeological investigations were conducted under contract with Ford, Powell and Carson Architects and Planners, Inc. and were sponsored by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA). Join us for what promises to be a very informative presentation.

Did you know?
Turtle shells were sometimes used as durable containers by prehistoric peoples. This portion of a turtle **plastron**, the section of the shell covering a turtle's underside, was found in the Clovis component of Kincaid Shelter near Sabinal, Texas. Turtles also were a source of protein and fat in the prehistoric diet. Photo by Susan Dial. UT-Vertebrate Paleontology collections. *Courtesy: Texas Beyond History*



Mark Your Calendars

Texas Archeology Society Annual Meeting

Date: Oct 27, 2011 - Oct 30, 2011

Location: Sheraton Fort Worth
1701 Commerce Street
Fort Worth

Meeting Our Mission Statement

Our president, Steve Stoutamire has prepared an *Archeological Site Inventory for Investigation* with over eight sites currently, or soon to be, under investigation by the field crews.

The mission of HCAA is to survey and record details about archeologically significant sites before they are lost to the rapidly increasing development of the Hill Country. To accomplish this more effectively, we strive to cultivate public interest in, and knowledge about, the history and prehistory of this area.

Next steps are to prioritize sites and plan our future work. It is also an incentive and reminder that we need to keep pushing our field work to achieve our mission statement.

Happy Birthday to Tom



On Saturday, May 28, members of HCAA celebrated Tom Miller's 96th Birthday.

Picture courtesy of Rudi Winzinger

Recording Collections

People have a tendency to pick up things that look interesting. Even though collecting artifacts is discouraged because information is lost when something is removed from its original position, many individuals do possess archeological materials they have found, perhaps from one or more locations on their own property. At some time they may want to organize what they have collected and learn more about what the items mean.

To help them with this task, the Texas Historical Commission has produced a [brochure \(PDF\)](#) on how to record an archeological collection. This brochure describes what resources are available for assistance.

Also, there are individuals within the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) (*and the Hill Country Archeology Association*) who can be of assistance. If you have a collection, or know someone who has materials they would like to record, you may contact TAS at tasinquiries@txarch.org and ask for help in the documenting process—and perhaps get information about documenting a site or sites!

Article reprinted from the TAS website

Burned Rock Middens

We all talk about burned rock middens, and we know when we find one, that we have encountered an artifact of an culture that existed long before we came to live here. But did you realize the effort that it took to cook with hot rocks? According to Texas Beyond History, "Texas archeologists have learned more about how middens formed by creating experimental earth ovens using various techniques. The experiments have shown that it takes a considerable quantity of wood and stone to heat an earth oven to a temperature hot enough to cook the food in it. For a pit approximately 1.5 meters (5 feet) in diameter and .5 meters (1.6 feet) deep, roughly 200 kilograms (441 pounds) of rock and 250 kilograms (551 pounds) of wood are needed to create an earth oven that would stay hot for at least 36 hours."

Gosh, am I glad to have a Charbroiler in the back yard!

2011 Texas Archeology Field School



Our own Kay Woodward (above) at Eagle Bluff

Historic Site in Quihi (above)

Eagle Bluff (below)

Another successful find by the youth group (below)



Pictures courtesy of Penny Bryant

**Hill Country Archeological Association
General Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2011**

Steve Stoutamire, President, called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. He welcomed all attendees. He provided an overview of the purpose and activities of HCAA.

Steve announced that Wayne Este and Bill Rector have accepted positions as Advisors to the Board of Directors. Both gentlemen have entrepreneurial, political and community knowledge that will be valuable to the organization. A professional archeologist is also being sought to serve as an advisor.

Steve announced that Stephanie Ertel is retiring as newsletter editor and Penny Bryant will assume that position, starting with the July newsletter.

Steve announced that the Gault Site tour for members will be May 23 and carpools will form at the Riverside Mall and at the Y.O. Ranch at 6:30 a.m. Field work projects at the Real County ranch and in the Saddlewood subdivision are ongoing.

Steve announced that a Speakers Bureau will be added to the HCAA website. The bureau will consist of HCAA members who can present talks on archeology to various organizations.

Joe Luther provided an update on the National Historic Landmark District (NHLD) project. The proposal is to be sent to the National Park Service for creation of a National Historic Landmark District around Camp Verde. It is currently being reviewed by the State Historical Preservation (SHP) officer. Only one site in the proposed NHLD area is currently on the National Registry. The SHP officer recommended that more sites be need to be approved as national historic landmarks in order for the National Park Service to approve the proposal for a NHLD. Work is in progress with surveys and photos to submit the NHL applications. Joe also announced that he was asked by The History Press to write a history of Camp Verde. He has signed a contract to write Camp Verde: Texas Frontier Defense 1832-1882. The book(s) is to be published in April 2012.

Steve announced that the HCAA Board of Directors had approved a \$5.00 increase in dues for 2012. Individual membership dues will be \$25.00 and family membership dues will be \$30. This will become effective October 1st. The dues provides six meetings per year, six editions of the newsletter per year, the Ancient Echoes journal every other year, work on site preservation, educational outreach, the website and the Archeology Celebration each year.

The Archeology Celebration will be October 8th this year.

The issue of coordination of refreshments was discussed. It was decided by majority vote to continue having refreshments at the general meetings. It was further decided that the responsibility for coordinating refreshments would be rotated throughout the year. The responsibilities include making sure plates, plastic cutlery, coffee, etc. are replenished as needed in the refreshment supply boxes, bringing soft drinks and ice and helping set up the refreshment table. The costs for supplies, ice and soft drinks will be reimbursed from the general fund. ***All members will continue to bring the snacks to be served.*** A sign-up sheet was passed and the following members volunteered to coordinate:

Jill Furse - July 2011 meeting. Terry Farley -January 2012 meeting. Penny Bryant - September 2011 meeting. Volunteer needed - March 2012 meeting, LeRoy Schlechte -November 2011 meeting. Jan Winzinger - May 2012.

Paul Smith, TAS Regional Director reminded everyone of the upcoming TAS Field School June 10-18 in Hondo. Information can be obtained from the www.txarch.org.

Victoria Mosty provided an overview of the Butt-Holdsworth Library renovations. She explained that Charles C. Butt donated \$1.5 million to The Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Library Foundation for Phase 1 renovations to the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Additional phases will include renovations to the Kerr Historical Society building and development of an urban park and trail along the river. The overall goal is the raise \$7 million. The mission of the foundation is to support library services in Kerr County. Ms. Mosty related that organizations such as HCAA and Riverside Nature Center which have library collections could request assistance from the foundation for development of their libraries.

Members were invited to attend a birthday celebration for Tom Miller on Saturday May 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Woodward's home.

Steve introduced Dr. Chris Lintz, Cultural Resource Specialist for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Dr. Lintz provided a fascinating presentation entitled "Jack Allen Site 1969-1970 Investigations at a Pick-Post House in the Texas Panhandle: Explorations in Cultural Variations." He discussed excavation in Hutchinson County of a late prehistoric pick post structure. He discussed similarities to other Antelope Creek Phase (AD 1200-1500) residential structures in the Texas panhandle. Data from the daub found at these sites has the potential to provide empirical evidence on the roof and frame slopes of the structures.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting will be Saturday, July 16.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Farley

HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

Help yourself and the HCAA while you shop for new and used books on all aspects of archeology. When you go to our HCAA web site, <http://www.hcarcheology.org>, you will find a link to Amazon.com to help you browse for and purchase books.

The link is:

[Archeology Books Available Here](#)

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING, JULY 16
AT 10:00 A.M. AT
RIVERSIDE NATURE
CENTER.

MEMBERS ARE WEL-
COME TO ATTEND.

A REMINDER

The HCAA is thankful that many landowners allow us to survey their property for archeological sites. We should constantly remind ourselves:

All artifacts found on their property belong to the landowner. HCAA members keep no artifacts.

If an archeological site is identified on the landowner's property, the location of the ranch should remain confidential.

We visit a property only with the owner's permission.

We do not hold a land-owner liable for injuries which occur while on their property.

We encourage and enjoy the participation of the landowner in our activities.

The HCAA offers its archeological activities as a community service.

HCAA
P.O. Box 290393
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