



March, 2010

HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 290393,
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VOLUME 11

NUMBER 2

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NEXT MEETING, SATURDAY, MARCH 20

The next meeting of the Hill Country Archeological Association will be held Saturday, March 20 at the Riverside Nature Center, at 150 Francisco Lemos Street, in Kerrville at 12:30 p.m.. A social will be held prior to the speaker at 1:00. The meeting is free and open to the public.

FORT JEFFERSON- THE GULF GIBRALTER



Historic American Buildings
photo.

Ron Ralph will tell us the story of Fort Jefferson, the largest masonry structure in the western hemisphere. The fort is located in the remote and isolated Dry Tortugas, 70 miles west of Key West.

The Tortugas consists of seven islands, or keys that have an abundance of sea turtles and an absence of fresh water.

CALENDAR

3/20 HCAA Reg. Mtg.

TBA Field Training -
Site Survey Work
(last 1/2 of Mar.)

4/TBA Melcher's Field
Work Day

5/15 HCAA Reg. Mtg.

Ron Ralph worked 13 years as an archeological consultant before joining the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 21 years. After retiring in 2000, he returned to consulting and working as an independent contractor.

Ron is among the many cave archeologists in Texas. He studied caves and archeology in California in 1963 and has worked throughout the southwestern U. S. and much of northern Mexico.

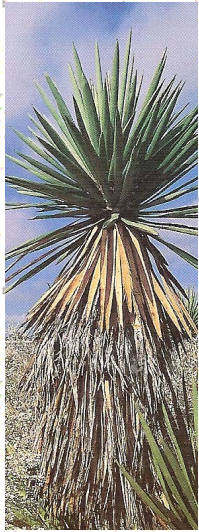
Ron is current president of the Texas Speleological Survey. He served on the board for the Texas Cave Management Association and served one term as President of the Texas Archeological Society. He chairs the TAS Reports & Curation Committee.

HCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of HCAA will convene at 11:15 a.m. Sat., March 20 at the Lab at the RNC. The main topic is "Transition to the new Board of Directors". All members are welcome to sit in.

JANUARY TOPIC

MIDDEN PLANTS FROM A SEMINOLE CANYON SITE



Leslie Bush talked about investigations of burnt plant remains from the Lost Midden site in Seminole Canyon State Park. The park is known for its magnificent rock art, but rock shelters are not the only archeological treasures present. Archeological plant remains tell much about the life of prehistoric people there. Plant remains for the site include a large number of species reflecting the botanical diversity of the Lower Pecos Region. Both fuel and food remains have been identified.

Leslie Bush has been a practicing paleoethnobotanist since 1993 and a Registered Professional Archaeologist since 1997, and has worked with plant remains from archeological sites in many states. She lives in Austin.

HCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The current HCAA Board of Directors has met and approved the following nominees for the 2010 board:

Steve Stoutamire	-- President
John Benedict	-- Vice President
Rudi Winzinger	-- Treasurer with Bryant Saner, assistant in Rudi's absence
Terry Farley	-- Secretary
Jose Contreras	-- At Large Member
Celeste Hall	-- At Large Member
Bob Ogle	-- At Large Member

These names will be presented at the March meeting for formal approval.

FIELD WORK TRAINING STATUS

Steve Stoutamire and John Benedict, members of the current Leaders-in-Field Training Class, both have good projects underway. Steve had the current team out for their first survey of sites and will be scheduling a larger work party soon. John has prepared for his first survey, which is to occur before the end of the month. He has already done a partial walking survey of the Kimble County property with the Team Trainers on Feb. 25.

All members will be notified of the next field work dates.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!



If you have never participated in a Texas Archeological Society Field School, now is your chance! The 2010 Field school is going to be held June 12-19, near Tarpley, approximately an hour's drive from Kerrville. This is a major prehistoric site in a beautiful area. The Field School camp will be at the Medina County Fairground, just north of downtown Hondo. But you don't have to camp; Hondo has several motels (& Tarpley has an RV park).

You will be able to do "hands-on" learning under the direction of experienced archeologists. But Field School is lots more than archeology. It is part family vacation, part reunion, and part party. Kids have the chance to actually do meaningful archeological work under the direction of people who are good with kids. The week goes by so fast, you are amazed!

TAS LITHICS CLASS AT KERRRRVILLE

The TAS Lithics Academy was held in Kerrville February 20-21, 2010. The class was held at the Red Cross building on Earl Garrett, and was led by Dr. Harry Shafer.



Dr. Shafer lecturing and explaining artifacts.



TAS Lithics Class, con't.



Dr. Voss demonstrating (Winzinger photo)

Thirty-seven people from all across Texas (and Reynosa, Mexico) gained a great deal of knowledge and basic skills. Dr. Cary Voss demonstrated flint knapping in a way that answered many questions about stone tool manufacture. Participants also received hands-on practice in recognizing not only diagnostic stone tools, such as dart points, but also interpreting the flakes, preforms, and other evidence of stone tool manufacture.

Several HCAA members served as hosts for the class: Dorothy Grayson, Bryant Saner, Rudi and Jan Winzinger, Edward Rendon, Jose Contreras, Terry Farley, Kay and Woody Woodson, Bob Ogle, John Benedict, Stephanie Ertel, and John Forister.

We received the following thank you note from Gerri and Howard Crockett (also HCAA members) on the behalf of the TAS Academy Committee:

February 25, 2010
Stephanie Ertel
President, HCAA

On behalf of the TAS Academy Committee we would very much like to thank you and HCAA for hosting the recent Lithics Academy held in Kerrville, Texas on February 20 and 21, 2010.

The facility arrangement, food, and snacks were perfect.

We specifically want to thank all the volunteers who provided essential help throughout the entire two day Academy:

John Forister, Ed Rendon, Rudi and Jan Winzinger, Bryant Saner, Kay and Woody Woodward, Bob Ogle, Terry Farley, Jose Contreras and John Benedict.

The Lithics Academy was truly a success in large part due to the members of HCAA and their support. Please thank everyone on our behalf for their assistance.

Sincerely,
Gerri and Howard Crockett

A REMINDER

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

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

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

We visit a property only with 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.