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CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

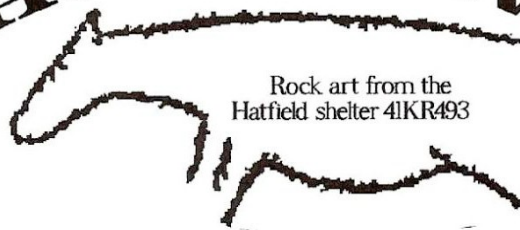
Saturday

November 19, 2011

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center

HCAA NEWS



Rock art from the
Hatfield shelter 4IKR493

Archeology Stewards

An All-Volunteer Army

The responsibility for a public archeology program to preserve and interpret the vast archeological landscape of Texas — covering 266,807 square miles and 254 counties — falls largely to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The staff is dedicated and capable, but with only about 10 archeologists, they need help in tackling this huge job.

That's why in 1984 the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) was formed. One of the most innovative and successful programs of its kind, the TASN has served as the model for similar programs in other states. Stewards are not professional archeologists, but highly trained and motivated avocational archeologists who work on a strictly volunteer basis.

What exactly do stewards do? Quite a lot. They might find, record and monitor archeological sites. They could help obtain protective designations for important sites and record private artifact collections. Some stewards give talks to schools and preservation groups and help organize events during Texas Archeology Month. Some assist THC archeologists on digs and surveys or carry out emergency, or "salvage," excavations when an archeological resource is threatened with imminent

destruction.

A steward might get involved in many activities or concentrate on one or two areas. In fact, some of the newest members, the marine stewards, specialize in investigating and protecting historic shipwrecks in Texas waters. The Stewards Handbook provides details about the TASN's purpose, activities, procedures and rules and is available online at the Texas Historical Commission website

On August 2, 2010, the Texas Archeological Stewards Network was recognized as an official Preserve America Steward.

For more information, contact the archeology division, call 512/463-6090 or write to Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.



Fort Saint Lewis

On a bluff overlooking Garcitas Creek in present-day Victoria County, Texas, lies the site of the earliest European settlement on the entire Gulf coast between Pensacola, Florida, and Tampico, Mexico. Most often called Fort St. Louis, through historical error, this meager outpost came into existence not only as the bitter fruit of one man's vision, but also as a manifestation of the three-way struggle for America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Spain had come early to work its way north and south from the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. England gained a toehold with its colonies on the Atlantic Seaboard. France, utilizing the Saint Lawrence River and other waterways, claimed Canada and the Great Lakes region, then aspired to the center of the continent by possessing its greatest river, the Mississippi. By the strangest of circumstances, France's ambitions led to this tenuous settlement on the Texas coast.

Here a beleaguered band of French colonists, brought by the

vaunted explorer Robert Cavalier, sieur de La Salle, struggled valiantly, from 1685 to 1689, against the wilderness, the Indians, and an environment that was wholly alien to them. Their numbers constantly diminished, from Indian ambush, from disease, and from eating strange fruits, such as prickly-pear tunas covered with tiny thorns. By the time La Salle left the colony in January 1687 to seek relief, less than 50 colonists remained of the 180 who had landed two years previously.

The Little "Fort" that Wasn't

Such was the settlement that has come to be called Fort Saint Louis. In reality, the little colony had no official name. It had none of the trappings usually associated with a fort. There was no palisade, or defensive wall. The eight cannons arranged around a few crude dwellings offered no defense, for there were no cannonballs of the right caliber. Instead of a stronghold, there were only crude huts built largely of wood poles and thatch, plus the headquarters house made of timbers salvaged from La Salle's wrecked supply ship, *Aimable*.

East Texas drought conditions could uncover hidden treasures

By Donna McCollum

As lakes and creeks in the oldest part of Texas become more shallow, an interesting, but problematic discovery is made. Historic Items are being unearthed and this presents a concern for archaeologists and historians.

"One of the things that happens when water rises and falls, is that archaeological sites that might be about 4 feet under the ground come up," Dr. Leslie Cecil, SFA Professor-Archaeologist.

If someone is at the lake and spots an arrow head, piece of Caddo Indian pottery or something else really old, archaeologists say they shouldn't mess with it.

"Look at it, observe it, but leave it," says Cecil.

That's the reminder historians and archeologists are giving as more and more state archaeological landmarks are exposed due to low water levels.

"All of those artifacts there are protected by law and there are penalties for taking artifacts off of federal lands and taking them home," says Cecil.

There are no laws on private property unless its designated protected by government authorities. This helps protect landowners from looters. Right now, like all of East Texas, archaeologists want the drought to end.

"And you don't have these cases of people coming out and picking up a piece of pottery because it looks cool or an arrowhead because it looks cool," says Cecil.

Any significant finds can be reported to authorities or SFA's social and cultural analysis department. The discovery may be the missing piece to pre-history time.

The Texas Historical Commission, as well as some Indian grave protection watchdog groups monitor the protection of archaeological landmarks



Metal arrowhead in Bone.
From the collection of Roy Yeberra.

Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)

The 116th TSHA Annual Meeting will be held March 1 - 3, 2012, at the Houston Omni Hotel. Hotel reservations are available now. Make plans now to attend the Texas State Historical Association's 2012 Annual Meeting. The 116th annual meeting will be held March 1-3, 2012 at the Omni Houston Hotel in Houston, Texas, located at Four Riverway near the Galleria. www.tshaonline.org

Fun Facts from Texas Beyond History for Kids Only site.

Prehistoric Indians—and some early white settlers—knew many uses for plants. Many of those we stay far away from today, like poison ivy, cactus, and yucca, were used to make dye, sandals, mats, and rope. Parts of the cactus and yucca can be eaten and were important foods for prehistoric peoples.

In style! Not all Indians wore moccasins on their feet. In Texas and the Southwest, many wore **prehistoric flip-flops**—sandals made of woven plant leaves, such as yucca.



Sandals worn by prehistoric Indians of Texas

When someone dies, it's common to place flowers on the grave. But did you know that many prehistoric Texas Indians also placed **burial offerings** inside the graves of loved ones? They laid beads and pendants, tools, and other special items such as rattlesnake rattles, sea shells, and deer antlers alongside or on the bodies. Archeologists have discovered many of these ancient burials in cemeteries in south Texas. Some sites were used by hunter-gatherer peoples for thousands of years.



Native families gathered to bury a loved one at a cemetery in south Texas roughly 4,000 years ago. The body has been covered in deer hide with red ocher paint. Beautiful shells, deer antlers, and stone tools also will be placed in the grave.

Recycling paper, glass, and aluminum cans is an important part of conserving resources. But did you know that thousands of years ago, native Texans were recycling some of their everyday tools, such as arrow points, knives, and spear points? These tools were made from flint, or chert, a valuable stone resource which is scarce in some areas of Texas and worth recycling. A good flint-knapper could resharpen or re-work a flint tool, turning it into something completely different. For instance, a broken dart point might be sharpened into a knife or even a tool for drilling holes.



Indians often recycled dart points, such as the one on the left, into other tools. The long, narrow drilling tool on the right was made from a dart point after it was broken.

Buffalo jerky, anyone? Jerky, or jerked (dried) meat, was invented by prehistoric peoples long ago as a way of preserving meat for long periods of time (they had no refrigerators to keep the meat fresh). Strips of buffalo, deer, or other animal meat were dried over a smoky fire until dry. It made a great "fast food," especially good to take on the trail.



Women cut buffalo meat into strips to dry for jerky.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Speakers Bureau is a new addition to our web site and features various archeological presentations, which are made by five HCAA personnel. These are designed for reasonable group sizes with age levels middle school through adult, depending on presentation topic. If you have a group that desires one or more of these presentations, please contact [Steve Stoutamire](#) to work out details. Honorariums will be accepted and are the discretion of the individual speaker and the distance the speaker has to travel to your location.

SPEAKER - Paul Smith

"Flint Knapping: Duplication of Indian Tools and Weapons." Target audience: elementary school to adult. Prefer one class -- size of 20-35. No slides or computer; all hands-on.

"Indians of Texas—East Texas, Central Texas, Coastal Texas, Panhandle Texas". Target audience: elementary school to adult. Able to provide to several classes of size 100 + Slides.

SPEAKER - Joseph Luther

"*Penateka Comanches in the Hill Country*" Target Audience: high school to adult. No size requirement. Power Point - 50 minutes. Artifact presentation.

"*Lipan Apaches in the Hill Country*" Target Audience: high school to adult. No size requirement. Power Point - 50 minutes. Artifact presentation.

"*History of Camp Verde and Environs*" (Historical Archeology) Target Audience: high school to adult. No size requirement. Power Point - 50 minutes. Artifact presentation.

"*Old Spanish Trails in the Hill Country*" (Historical Archeology) Target Audience: high school to adult. No size requirement. Power Point - 50 minutes. Artifact presentation.

"*Civil War in the Hill Country*" (Historical Archeology) Target Audience: high school to adult. No size requirement. Power Point - 50 minutes. Artifact presentation.

SPEAKER - Steve Stoutamire

"*Archeology of the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas*" - power point with some artifact presentation, approximately 1 hr. Target audience: late high school through adult -No size requirement

"*Origin of Chert on the Edwards Plateau*" - Power point -15 minutes with chert and other lithic specimens. Target audience: late high school through adult- No size requirement

"*Historic Indians of Central and West Texas*" - Power Point 20 minutes. Target audience: High school to adult- No size requirement

These three presentations can be combined into one presentation (length approx 1 ½ hours) or presented as single presentations as noted above

SPEAKER - John Benedict

"*Introduction to Archeology of the Hill Country*" - Power Point with artifacts and demo - 30 to 60 minutes depending on the audience. Two versions, one of youth and one for adults.

"*Prehistoric Indian Lifeways on the Lower Pecos and Rio Grande*" - 30 min to one hour. Power-Point presentation with artifacts, replicas, and demonstrations. Target audience adults

SPEAKER -Bryant Saner

"*Archeology of the Hill Country of Texas*", with artifact presentation and demonstrations - 1 hour - Target audience middle school through adult

SPEAKER- Bryant Saner and Steve Stoutamire

"*Indians, Archeology and Chert Resources of the Hill Country of Texas*" - Power point and artifact review with some demonstration of atlatl, etc - 90 minutes - target audience college through adult

Upcoming Events:

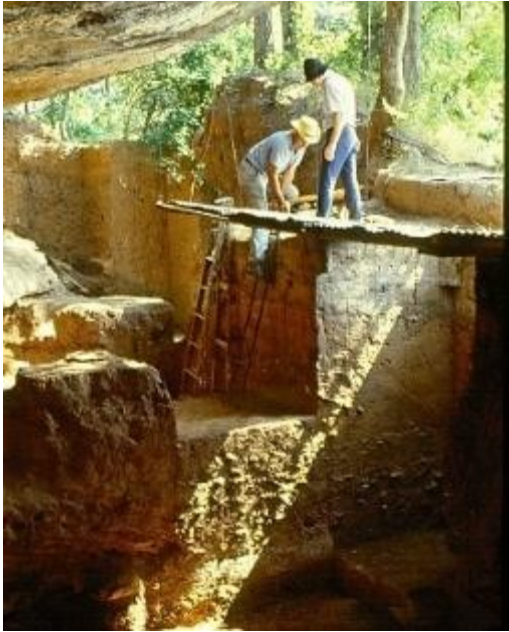
2nd Annual South-Central conference on Meso-america November 4-6, 2011, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX Website: southcentralmeso.org

November 19, 2011 HCAA General Meeting

116th TSHA Annual Meeting will be held March 1 - 3, 2012 in Houston, TX

Horn Shelter

More than 50 years since its discovery, the Horn Shelter site is not widely known outside academic and research communities. For this reason, *Texas Beyond History* has



collaborated with Albert Redder, the Bosque Museum in Clifton, and other museums and researchers to bring the fascinating story of Horn Shelter to a larger audience.

Working within the dark recesses of a rock shelter overlooking the Brazos River, avocational archeologists uncovered a deeply buried human grave of such significance that it has drawn the attention of researchers around the world. Dated to more than 11,000 years ago, the grave held the remains of a man and a child who had been buried with a cache of special offerings crafted of shell, bone, and stone.

The Horn Shelter site lies in an erosional recess carved into Cretaceous limestone above the Brazos River. Roughly 150 feet long and up to 30 feet wide, the shelter offered a protected campsite and access to dependable natural resources.

Horn Shelter No. 2 was filled almost to the top when Albert Redder, Frank Watt, and Robert Forrester began their work at the site in the late 1960s. They dug through nearly 20 feet of deposits, uncovering the fire hearths and trash left behind by a succession of campers in the shelter, from the early Paleoindian period — Clovis and Folsom—to more modern times, when squatters, or perhaps bootleggers, took up residence there during the Prohibition era. Later visitors—relic collectors—also left their mark on the shelter, destroying large portions of a buried Archaic burned rock midden and hauling away untold numbers of artifacts.

During the decades of their excavations, the archeo-

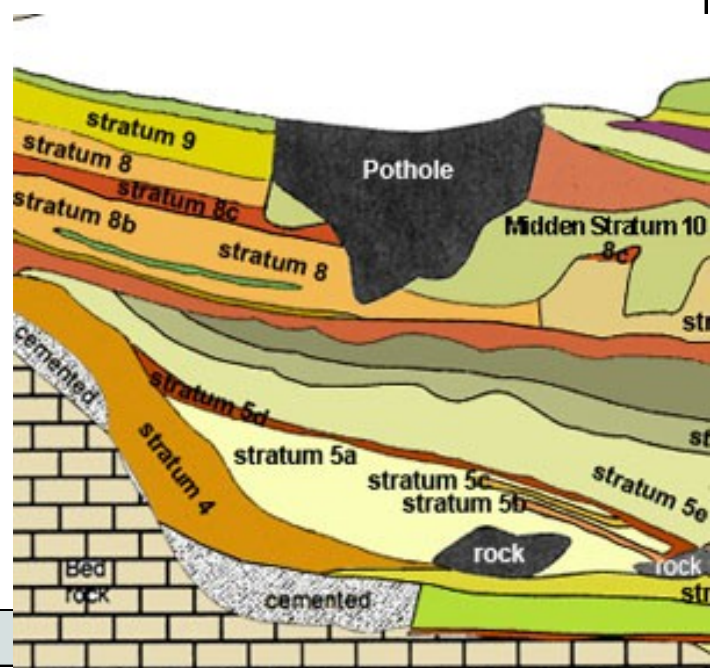
logical investigators carefully followed the shelter's natural and human-made layers, recovering thousands of chipped-stone tools, animal bones, shell, charcoal, and other traces of the past. They identified and mapped 27 layers, or strata, revealing a record of human occupation from Paleoindian through historic times.

In the laboratory, Redder cleaned and catalogued the artifacts and fine-screened hundreds of pounds of sediment, searching for small seeds, bones, beads, and other diminutive remains to help reconstruct the life-ways and traditions of past peoples. Samples of organic materials submitted for radiocarbon assay have yielded a series of dates from multiple levels, including charcoal fragments from an early, rockless hearth from more than 12,500 years ago.

Because of these systematic efforts, both in the field and in the lab, the Horn Shelter collection is a treasure trove for researchers. The archives and artifacts recovered by both Redder and Forrester have been donated to the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History where they will undergo further analyses.

The fully documented report of the excavation of Horn Shelter can be found at www.texasbeyondhistory.net/horn/index.html

The report has interactive instructional sections such as in the section, *Reading the Layers*, viewers can click on each layer in the interactive profile to learn about the stratigraphy and evidence uncovered in the south end of the site.



ARCHEOLOGY CELEBRATION
2011

The threat of rain reduced the crowds but not their enthusiasm.

Historical tools and wood working skills demonstrated by very talented presenter Joe Rogers

Young Indian dancer performing at the Celebration tried her hand at pottery making.





Display of resources that the native peoples of southwest Texas ate and used to make necessary items to survive in day to day living.

Shown are sandals, bowls and tools. The making of these items were aptly demonstrated by a highly skilled artisan and his demonstrations brought the realities of prehistoric living alive.



The soft tones of an Indian flute floated through the exhibits.

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, **NOVEMBER 19, 2011** AT 10:00 A.M. AT RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME 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 ac-

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PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED