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GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

May 19, 2012

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center



Ladies, Gentleman & Children of All Ages

It has been a very busy couple months since our last newsletter contact and the future looks even busier. Recently I went on a shovel test with John Benedict to a remote ranch site, and I mean way back there. We drove until we ran out of paved road, then I rode on the tailgate of his pickup for three more miles. Luckily, we often had to stop to open and close gates so he knew I was still there hanging on and had not bounced off, and through the dust John kept going.

After reaching the ranch house and talking with the land owner about what had already been found and identified, we were off again for another couple miles into the interior of the ranch. I swear, some of those trails on the ranch had hills that went almost straight up, and with me still hanging onto the tailgate, John kept going. Then everything that was in the back of John's pickup now wanted out and was sliding my way and competing for space on the tail gate, but I held on and John kept going.

We made it to the new survey site, did our shovel tests, recorded the -findings, and then it was time to leave. Yup - every hill has an up and a down side and we were then headed down with me just sitting on the tailgate and John kept going.

We started down slow and picked up some speed, the brakes squeaked- but held, and I was ready to jump if need be, and John kept going. As I think back on that beautiful day, full of excitement and adventure, I remember the old saying that getting there is often the best part of a trip and especially when John kept going.

Have also been on a walking survey up in Mason County with Dr. Joseph Luther. It is one of the most beautiful places in this area and it still remains mostly untouched by civilization. With piled rock walls from a historical period to a natural rock amphitheater on a plateau were Indians surely were in pre-history times. You could just look out on the land and imagine them looking for game or intruders and holding ceremonies with the sun coming up on the horizon or the night sky so full of stars they couldn't be counted. That moment will live on in my memory for a long time.

However, while on these trips there were some serious archeology events, efforts and accomplishments, but as you may guess there is a lot more to it than kicking over rocks and digging in the dirt.

Until next time, very respectfully,

Ron Holm
President, HCAA

SPEAKER FOR May 17 HCAA MEETING



Chuck Hixson is an archaeologist with LCRA and a major figure in the Llano Uplift Archeological Society (LUAS). He will talk about LUAS' work in the Central Mineral Region. His topic will be regarding the effects of the recent drought on Lake Buchanan and archaeology sites uncovered.

Mr. Hixson received his BA and MA in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently working as a contract archaeologist for a state agency. From 2001 to 2007, He was also the president of the Llano Uplift Archeological Society. During the current drought, he has been involved in a project documenting shoreline archaeological sites on Lake Buchanan. Mr. Hixson's archaeological interests include ceramic technology, GIS, and prehistoric use of freshwater mussels.

The recent drought has caused Lake Buchanan, the largest of the Highland Lakes, to drop to levels not seen since the early 1950s. The exposed areas of the lake floor have been severely eroded by waves, in effect "excavating" large areas along the Colorado River and offering unprecedented visibility of once buried prehistoric archaeological sites. Ongoing investigations have shown that certain feature types, including burned rock middens and unusual hearths with satellite rock clusters sometimes interpreted as prehistoric house floors, seem to be confined to particular geological formations.

The reason for this distribution appears to be due not to the properties of different rock types but instead the kinds of soils that have developed over the bedrock.

Archeology Field and Lab Courses for 2012

By Steve Stoutamire

The 2012 series of Archeology Field and Lab training courses continue for five HCAA members. Stephen Bishop, Terry McTaggart, Judy Carswell, Joe Luther and Ed Rendon have participated in four of the six courses to complete the training. Ed had taken the series 2 years ago and chose to participate again to hone his skills. Phyllis Shelton, Ron Holm and Jim Whitterspoon have also participated in one of the sessions.

The four courses held so far include: (1) lithic techniques, identification of stone tools, projectile points, how to "read" chert debitage (2) lab techniques, sorting and cataloging artifacts (3) mapping and survey techniques, proper forms to use, etc and (4) field session utilizing use of compass and tape to survey site, artifact collection procedure and construction of all reports and maps necessary for a typical archaeology site. The 5th session will involve an actual partial excavation of a prehistoric site to learn techniques in excavation, and artifact collection and recording. The 6th session will be the assignment of a separate site to each of the trainees, to supervise the surveying and recording of that site and to take responsibility for ensuring that all forms, reports and maps are properly done. With luck it is hoped that the training will be fully completed by June or July.



HCAA Newsletter

Editor Receives Award

HCAA Newsletter Editor, Penny Bryant, was presented with plaque for the March 2012 *Award of Excellence* in special recognition as Editor of the HCAA Newsletter and for her

continuing support to the advancement and achievements of HCAA by the HCAA President, Ron Holm. Ms. Bryant expressed her surprise at being so honored and thanked HCAA for the recognition.

2012 Members of the Board with past-president **Steve Stoutamire**, now 2012 Field Work Committee Chairman. (below)



Left to right: **John Benedict**, Vice President, **Ron Holm**, President, **Steve Stoutamire**, Past-President and current Chairman of the 2012 Field Work Committee, **Joe Luther**, Director at Large. Seated left to right: **Terry McTaggart**, Secretary and **Penny Bryant**, Treasurer. (Missing is **Jimmy Hutto** and **Stephen Bishop**, Directors at Large)

THE TAS 2012 FIELD SCHOOL

Questions regarding the TAS 2012 Field School? Following our speaker presentation on May 19, at the HCAA General Meeting, a Power Point presentation will be available for those interested, which provides an introduction to the Devils River Natural Area and describes the various field projects available to the participants at this year's TAS Field School being conducted this June. The presentation was created by Margaret Howard and Luis Alvarado, the co-PIs of this summer's TAS Field School at the Devils River Natural Area (north unit).

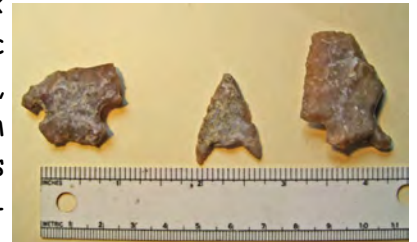


The Hill Country Archeology Association welcomed the new TAS Regional Representative, **Kay Hindes**, to the March General Meeting (left)

Kendall County Survey

By **John Benedict**

The HCAA crew working in Kendall County has discovered six new prehistoric archeology sites, ranging from lithic workshops to small occupational sites with middens. One lithic workshop site is in central Kendall county close to the Guadalupe River, and the others are on the northwestern edge of the county near a permanent spring fed creek.



The crew led by PA, John Benedict, is recording the sites with Texas Archeology Research Laboratory. Crew members participating included John Benedict, Frank Binetti, Stephen Bishop, Jose Contreras, Ed Rendon, Sue Wiedenfeld, and John and Sylvia Young.

Ancient Echoes

The *Ancient Echoes* journal will be distributed at the May meeting. One copy will go to each membership for those who were members in 2010 and 2011. Two copies will go to the authors who have reports in the journal. Those not able to attend the May meeting to receive the journal will have them mailed.



JIM WEATHERSBEE, RON HOLM, BOBBY GIERISCH, HOLLY GIERISCH, KAY WOODWARD, STEVE STOUTAMIRE, AND DIANNE GIERISCH
AT THE STONE WALL

Mason County Survey and Field Mapping

By Joe Luther

On April 27th, Joe Luther led a crew to a historical archeology site in Mason County. The HCAA field team accomplished a reconnaissance and field mapping of a sandstone formation that had been modified by human culture. Purpose of the investigation was to determine if this is a Spanish Colonial site or a 19th century ranching site. At the end of the day, they were able to say that the site was a late 19th century ranching feature with no Spanish evidence.

Six members of HCAA participated in this field work: Joseph Luther, PI, Steve Stoutamire, Kay Woodward, Woody Woodward, Jim Weathersbee and Ron Holm.



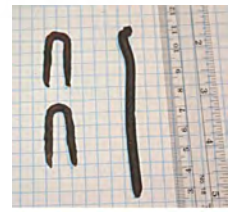
WOODY WOODWARD & JIM WEATHERSBEE
WALKING SURVEY - MASON COUNTY



HICKORY SANDSTONE FORMATION - MASON COUNTY



KAY WOODWARD & RON HOLM LOOKING FOR ARTIFACTS
MASON COUNTY 27 APRIL 2012



HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGY

Joseph Luther, Ph.D.

4.16.2012

Archeologists divide the span of human existence into prehistoric and historic times. Prehistory is that portion of human history that extends before written documents and archives. There are more than 50,000 prehistoric archaeological sites identified across the state of Texas.¹

In the Texas Hill Country, prehistory is a span of some 12,000 years and provides a plethora of prehistoric sites, features and artifacts. Given the abundance of the high quality Edwards chert in this area, the focus of archeology here has been, by and large, on the prehistory of Paleo-Indians, Archaic Indians and Late Prehistoric peoples.

Paleo-Indian (12,500-8000 years ago)
Early Archaic (8000-4500 years ago)
Middle Archaic (4500-3000 years ago)
Late Archaic and Transitional Archaic (3000-1300 years ago)
Late Prehistoric (1300-300 years ago)²

Historical archaeology is the study of the material remains of past societies that also left behind documentary and oral histories. Historical archaeology is the study of post-prehistoric cultures that uses physical remains, oral and historical sources, and a range of multidisciplinary techniques to study the human condition. This field of research embraces the interests of a diverse group of scholars representing the disciplines of anthropology, history, geography, and folklore.³ The historical archeologist must rely on site maps, soil profile drawings, and artifacts, as well as archival texts, records, maps, photographs, oral histories and ethnographies.⁴

During the Historic Period (the time of written records; beginning roughly in the 1500s in this region), hundreds of groups of native peoples were moving around the area that is now Texas and northern Mexico. Michael Collins has estimated the number of named Indian groups to be close to 600, as recorded in documents from early Euro-American settlement of Texas.⁵

The Late Prehistoric Period (1300 to 300 B.P.) was a time of practical adaptation imposed by environmental determinism, due to climate change. The most significant change is the introduction of the bow and arrow (about 750 A.D.) and its widespread popularity. The small arrow-sized projectile point types of this period include Scallorn, Granbury, Perdiz, and Clifton.

These Indian groups transitioned from pre-historic to historic peoples when contact was first made with Euro-Americans in the 16th century. Stone arrow points were replaced by metal by the late 1600s and serve as a diagnostic artifact for this transition. Aboriginal people of the Hill Country had contact with the Spanish in 1527⁶, before the time of the establishment of San Antonio. Displaced from their traditional homelands and decimated by Spanish-introduced diseases, these tribes soon lost their pre-contact cultural systems. Artifacts associated with the Historic Contact Period include metal knives, metal arrow points, glass beads, glass, copper kettle fragments, and gun parts⁷. The French and Spanish provided scrap metal, as well as trade points. Indians manufactured weapons and tools from barrel hoops, utensils and wagon parts. They chiseled a point out of a strip of barrel band and then sharpened and refined the arrowhead with a file. Raiders brought home hoops and horses.⁸

Tribes that appeared in Texas and the Hill Country during the Historic Period included the Jumano, Payaya, Tonkawa, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Kickapoo. Historical archeology field research pertaining to these peoples needs to include metal detectors, as most of their tools and weapons were of metal.

The Apache did not arrive in the local Hill Country area until after the Spanish were in San Antonio. The Lipan Apaches incessantly raided San Antonio and in turn were raided by Spanish soldiers. Apachería in the Hill Country was soon replaced by Comancheria. Having acquired horses in the first two decades of the eighteenth century, the Comanches migrated into Texas, usurping control of the region from the Apaches and Tonkawas.⁹

A local Euro-American captive of the Comanches, Clinton L. Smith, wrote about his life as a warrior. In his book, Smith writes:

They made their arrows out of dogwood switches, and made their bows out of wild mulberry and bois d'arc. In slipping around through the white settlements the Indians would pick up all of the hoop iron they could find and use this in making their arrow spikes. They also traded for this kind of iron from the Mexicans. Many people have asked if we used stone arrow spikes. We knew nothing about this kind of an arrowhead, for they belonged to tribes of a former age. The Mexicans also brought in iron or steel arrow spikes ready made, and all we had to do was fit them on a dogwood shaft and sharpen them."¹⁰

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The Comanches adopted the Spanish use of bits and spurs, as well as a good copy of the Spanish saddle, which included a high pommel, saddle horn, and cantle along with stirrups. Comanche weapons included bow and arrow, as well as the long lance, also adopted from the Spanish.¹¹

A Comanche, riding at gallop, could shoot twenty arrows while a musket-armed soldier could only get off one shot and reload. Metal arrowheads became popular in the late seventeenth century. Low-grade iron arrow points turned out in quantity by forges were greatly sought after. A trading house could supply a packet of one dozen to the Indians at a cost of one *medio real*, sixteenth of a Spanish dollar, half a bit or six cents. Over two centuries, these iron arrowheads killed more human beings of both races than all the guns traded to the Indians combined.¹²



CORONADO SETS OUT TO THE NORTH
By Frederick Remington

In addition to Native American research, the historical archeology of Spanish Texas needs to be investigated. The Texas Hill Country was a province of New Spain from 1690 until 1821. The Spanish army and missionaries made numerous expeditions through the Hill Country and built a number of missions and presidios. Numerous archeologists such as Kay Hindes have worked to document Spanish and Mexican archeological sites.

Mexico won independence from in 1821. During the late 1820s and early 1830s, increasing numbers of Euro-American settlers began moving to San Antonio, though the city remained preponderantly Mexican at the beginning of the Texas Revolution. Historical archeology in this area also needs to follow the chronology of Texas. Field research is needed to document the Republic of Texas, the Adelsverein, the War with Mexico, the shingle makers and river mills, the Texas Rangers, the U.S. Army in Texas, the Texas Militia, the Frontier Battalion, Hill Country railroads, cattle drives, outlaws, and settlement patterns. There needs to be a field guide for historical archeology, similar to *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians* by Ellen Sue Turner, Thomas R. Hester and Richard L. McReynolds, 2011.

A good start for a field guide to Spanish and Mexican historical archeology is *Southwestern Colonial Ironwork: The Spanish Blacksmithing Tradition* by Marc Simmons and Frank Turley, 2007. You will also want to get a copy of Randy Steffen's book – *The Horse Soldier – Vol. II The Frontier, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Indian Wars 1851-1880*. Other recommended books include *Method and Theory in Historical Archeology* by Stanley A. South, 1977 and Charles E. Orser's *Historical Archeology*, second edition, 1995.

There are battlefields, forts, camp sites, river fords and bridges, trails, mills, buildings, and unidentified archeological sites, features and artifacts, all of which need to be explored, discovered, identified, described, and explained. There is much to do in the field and the archives.

We have just scratched the surface.

Continued on p. 7

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Notes on Historical Archeology article by Joseph Luther, Ph.D.:

¹Timothy K. Perttula, 2004. *The Prehistory of Texas*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.

²Ellen Sue Turner, Thomas R. Hester and Richard L. McReynolds. 2011. *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas³Indians*. Lanham MD: Taylor Trade Publishing. *Society for Historical Archeology*, <http://www.sha.org/>, 4.15.2012.

⁴Ethnohistory uses both historical and ethnographic data as its foundation. Its historical methods and materials go beyond the standard use of documents and manuscripts. Practitioners recognize the utility of such source material as maps, music, paintings, photography, folklore, oral tradition, site exploration, archaeological materials, museum collections, enduring customs, language, and place names. *Wikipedia*, (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnohistory>), accessed 5.12.2012.

⁵Michael Collins. 1999. "Named Indian Groups in Texas: A Guide to Entries in the New Handbook of Texas," *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society*, 70, 7-16.

⁶Cabeza de Vaca, Álvar Núñez: *The Narrative of Cabeza De Vaca*, Translation of *La Relacion*, Rolena Adorno and Patrick Charles Pautz. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press 2003.

⁷Kay E. Hindes. 1995. "Historic Camps and Crossings on the Medina and San Antonio Rivers," *Texas Beyond History*, (<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains/images/he6.html>), accessed 5.12.2012); Hindes, 1995. "Native American and European Contact in the Lower Medina River Valle." *La Tierra* 22 (2):25-31.

⁸David M Johnson. 2009. "Apache Victory against the U.S. Dragoons, the Battle of Cieneguilla, New Mexico", in Scott, Douglas, Lawrence Babits and Charles Haecker. *Fields of Conflict: Battlefield Archeology from the Roman Empire to the Korean War*. Westport: Praeger Security International. 240; Marc Thompson. 1980. "A Survey of Aboriginal Metal Points from Apachería," in *The Artifact*, The El Paso Archeological Society, 18(1)

⁹Joseph Luther. 2012. *Cape Verde: Texas Frontier Defense*. The History Press.

¹⁰J. Marvin Hunter. *The Boy Captives: Being the True Story of the Experiences and Hardships of Clinton L. Smith and Jeff D. Smith*. Reprint, San Saba TX: San Saba Printing, 2002. 166.

¹¹Gerald Betty. 2002. *Comanche Society before the Reservation*. College Station: Texas A&M University. 87-88.

T.R.: Fehrenbach, 1994. *Comanche: The Destruction of a People*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. De Capo Press, 124.

¹²Hindes, Kay E. 1995.

El Camino Real de los Tejas Education Workshops

The Stone Fort Museum is taking history on the road with two workshops that explore the natural and cultural history of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. Attend for one and one-half days of intensive learning that will give you the knowledge and know-how to interpret and teach the trail.

Two locations - Natchitoches, Louisiana and Victoria, Texas - will provide a rich setting in which you will learn from trail historians, walk a portion of the trace and share ideas with fellow educators.

The cost for each workshop is \$60 and includes all sessions, a field trip and four meals. Choose to attend one, or both, workshops. Space at each location is limited, so register now.

REGISTER NOW FOR JUNE
2 locations - 2 dates - 2 opportunities to learn

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8, 2012

Victoria, Texas

Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15, 2012

For further information:

<http://www.sfasu.edu/stonefort><http://www.sfasu.edu/>

Upcoming Events:

- **El Camino Real de los Tejas Education Workshops** June 7 & 8 or June 13 & 15
- **TAS Field School** June 9 to 16..
- **Historical Marker workshop, Val Verde Co.** 6/8/12 at 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM or register for online workshop on 6/27/2012 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM Led by Historical Markers program staff, The workshops will be offered throughout Texas over the next several months:
<http://webcalendar.thc.state.tx.us/home/index.asp>
- **STAA Quarterly Meeting** July 21. 1pm to 5pm
- **150th Anniversary of the Civil War at the Nueces River—Folk Opera, Memorial Service, Meal and Symposium.** August 10 -11.
www.fortmartinscott.org
- **Texas Archeology Association Annual Meeting Oct 26-28**

DID YOU KNOW?

Colors of pottery clay controlled by geological formation in which they are found



Virtually all earthenware pottery, is made with three main ingredients—clay, temper, and water. The Texas Panhandle is blessed with at least four different geological formations that contain pure clay deposits suitable for pottery making. Other secondary clay sources can be found along the Canadian and its tributaries, but these clays are often impure and more difficult to use. From oldest to youngest, the main sources include the red clay of the Permian Redbeds, the yellow to red clays of the Tecovas and Trujillo Triassic-age formations, the brown to bluff clays of the Ogallala Pliocene-age formations, and the dark gray and blue clays from the shallow playas dating to the Pliocene and Pleistocene. All but the playa clays are exposed in the canyon walls of the Canadian Breaks. While good pottery can be made from all four sources, each clay has its own peculiar properties and must be prepared somewhat differently. For instance, the Permian red clay contains lots of salt and gypsum, minerals that often cause pottery to explode or break apart during firing. Removing the mineral inclusions is a tedious and time-consuming process.

The younger clays are easier to use and require less preparation.

For all the clays, the most dependable preparation method is to dry the clay thoroughly and then pulverize it and carefully search for rootlets, pebbles, and other impurities. Sometimes these impurities are removed by screening or filtering after the clay is rehydrated by adding water and allowed to sit overnight. Moist clay is "plastic"—easily shaped into almost any form, but this plasticity comes at a cost. Pure clay may be too flexible to hold its shape and it shrinks and cracks as it dries. Therefore, "temper"—nonplastic material such as sand, volcanic ash, crushed rock, crushed pottery (grog), bone or shell—is often added. Without temper, clay forms flat platelets that tend to trap and hold water; temper particles disrupt the clay platelets and allow the walls of the vessel to dry more completely. Different types of clay and different types of temper must be mixed at various ratios to obtain a workable pottery clay. Typically the amount of clay varies from 50-70% and the amount of temper from 30-50%. For example in *Borger Cordmarked* pottery, micaceous sand and crushed quartzite are the two most common tempers.



HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING,
MAY 19, 2012 AT
10:00 A.M. AT RIV-
ERSIDE NATURE
CENTER. MEMBERS
ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND.

HCAA
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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](#)

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.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED