

HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD

RON HOLM –

PRESIDENT

JOHN BENEDICT –

VICE PRESIDENT

PENNY BRYANT –

TREASURER

TERRY MCTAGGART –

SECRETARY

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS:

JOE LUTHER

JIMMY HUTTO

STEPHEN BISHOP

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

PENNY BRYANT,
jennalola01@yahoo.com

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

September 15, 2012

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center



Denisovans

DNA samples have identified a new group of hominids that lived concurrent with modern humans and subsequent studies show that humans most likely interbred with them.

While Neanderthals are well known as extant with humans, this less-known group is named Denisovans. DNA extracted from a single finger bone and two teeth was sequenced in 2010. This sample was able to determine 1.9 percent of the genome. It was sufficient to determine that the bones were neither human or Neanderthal. "It was the first time a new group of distinct humans was discovered" via genetic analysis rather than by anatomical description, said Svante Pääbo, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute (M.P.I.) for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, in a conference call with reporters.

New methods of genetic analysis now are able to reconstruct the entire genome. "This new sequencing approach can be used for any DNA

that is too fragmented to be read well through more traditional methods. Meyer (Matthias Meyer, also of M.P.I.) noted that it could come in handy for analysis of both ancient DNA and contemporary forensic evidence, which also often contains only fragments of genetic material."

"Denisovans appear to have been more closely related to Neanderthals than to humans, but the evidence also suggests that Denisovans and humans interbred."

Both Neanderthals and Denisovan hominids had similar brain-to-body size as humans. The researchers are concluding that other factors than the size of the brain are responsible for the demise of those hominids and that "underlying neurological differences could explain why we flourished while they died out"

The hope is that in the future, age of fossils based on genome sequences, can be assigned by the rate of mutations since breaking

Continued on page 3

John H. Benedict will be Speaker at the next HCAA Meeting

John was born at Brooke Army Medical Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio during WWII, where his parents were both officers in the Medical Corp. After the war John grew up with two brothers in California. His childhood was spent working on a little one acre farm in the San Fernando Valley, raising goats, chickens, rabbits, ducks, horses, fruit trees, and a big vegetable garden—they truly lived off the land.

He majored in Biology at California State University at Los Angeles where he received his BA degree. He and his new wife then moved to Davis, California where John was accepted to graduate school at the University of California specializing in Entomology (the study of Insects) and Ecology. He received his Ph. D. degree in 1975. His family moved to a small town near Bakersfield, California where he worked as a Post Doctorial Fellow for World Bank and the University of California, Berkeley, searching the cotton genome for plants that were resistance to insect pests. In 1976 he was offered a faculty position at Texas A&M University, College Station, and became a member of the department of Entomology, Graduate Teaching Faculty, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in 1977.

For the next 25 years he worked for TAMU-CS at one of TAMU's off-campus research centers. He was a research scientist, faculty member, and administrator at the TAMU Research Center in Corpus Christi. He taught classes at TAMU-CS, TAMU-Kingsville, and Colorado State University, but for the most part he conducted research and trained graduate students, Post Doctorial Fellows, and Visiting Scientists in the art and science of Insect Pest Management Research and Practice. He also cooperated with Texas Agricultural Extension Service, farmers, plant breeders, seed companies, and fortune 500 life science companies in product development, performance and marketing/implementation.

He retired from Texas A&M as Professor Emeritus in 1999. He has two daughters, and several grandchildren. John began his archeology studies in 2004 and has spent the last 8 years studying, writing about surveying and recording archeology sites in Texas. Today he is in love with archeology, HCAA, and sleuthing the mysteries of the people that came before us—the older the better. His passion is surveying new archeology sites and writing the stories about what was discovered and how these ancient people may have lived.

The title for his September 15 HCAA presentation is "Devil's River Field School 2012—Life in the Desert". He will discuss what the field school volunteers and archeologists did, what they found, and how these prehistoric peoples on the Devil's River may have lived over the last 8,000 years.



Sector 2 rock shelter interior



Sector 4 rock shelter interior



Sector 3 rock art

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

TAS Field School was held June 9-15, 2012 near Del Rio Texas, on the new TPWD property know as the Devil's River State Natural Area—South Unit. It is about 20 miles north of Del Rio. It consists of 17,000 acres of limestone canyons walls, valleys, and mesas with a few spring fed seeps, creeks and rivers.



41VV48 work shot showing stratigraphy

Ancient Echoes

If you have not received your copy of *The Ancient Echoes* journal that was distributed at the May meeting, be sure to speak with Kay at the September Meeting. One copy is to 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.

Continued from page 1

with a last common ancestor, however, ongoing debate "about the average rate of genetic mutations over time" does not allow specific dating to be offered at this time.

The entire article by Katherine Harmon can be read in the Scientific American - Thu, Aug 30, 2012

Sad news reached us regarding the deaths of Sue Ellen Turner on Sunday, July 22, 2012 and our friend Bill Ellis on Thursday, August 2, 2012

Bill was a very long time member of HCAA. And he was our Atlatl guy at every Archeology Celebration from the beginning of the formation of the Hill Country Archeological Association. He could tell a person a great deal about weapons, dress and so on. His quietness was often mistaken for shyness, but Bill had a very sharp mind. He wrote a monthly column for the Bandera newspaper, from the Native American view point. He could be seen at the Pow-wows dancing with the other Native Americans.

Sue's passing is a major loss for all of Texas and beyond. Sue was not only the co-author of the much needed artifact handbook created for archeologists. She was a dear friend to so many and had such a wonderful zest for life. She will be sadly missed.

LaRivera 41KR22 Progress

By Joe Luther

We are wrapping up the TexSite report on LaRivera (translated "the banks") - **Phase 1** and will commence Phase 2 in a few weeks. Excellent field work with a full range of features and artifacts spanning 10,000 years. Many thanks to the HCAA crew that has participated in Phase 1: T.G. & Kay Woodward, John Benedict, Stephen Bishop, Terry McTaggart, Jimmy Hutto, Jose Contreras, James Weathersbee, Ed Rendon, Judy Carswell, Penny Bryant, Bryant Saner and Steve Stoutamire.



ASH FROM MIDDEN #1 AT 41KR22
PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHAN BISHOP



TRENCHING THE SITE OF THE OLD STORE

This project has involved the full range of archeological techniques including pedestrian survey, stratified survey, trenching excavations, shovel tests, subsurface scans with metal detectors, and satellite imaging. A special word of appreciation is extended to Kay and Woody Woodward for the continued perseverance, knowledge and skill in the archeological laboratory. To date, there are three large boxes of artifacts.

Upcoming Events:

- STAA meeting Oct 6, 801 E. Cesar, Chavez Cir, San Antonio, TX 78205
- HCAA "Rendezvous on the River" tentative set for October 13 at RNC
- Texas Archeology Association Annual Meeting Oct 26-28 in Tyler, TX.
- Archaeological Institute of America - Southwest Texas Archaeological Society: lectures series on archeology topics around the world. See Website for lecture schedules and subjects. Website: <http://aiaswtas.org/>

Historic San Antonio Guided Running and Walking Tours

September 13, 2012

Fort Sam Houston

October 27, 2012

Eastside Cemeteries

December 6, 2012

Downtown Holiday Lights

February 9, 2013

King William

Texas Wagon Train



Photos from the

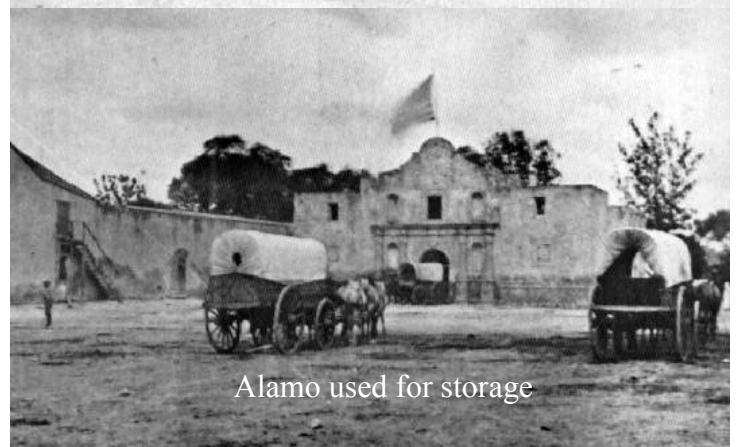
Texas Transportation Museum

11731 Wetmore Road
San Antonio, Texas 78247
(210) 490-3554

Friday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(No admission after 2:30 PM)

Sat & Sun: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(No admission after 4:30 PM)

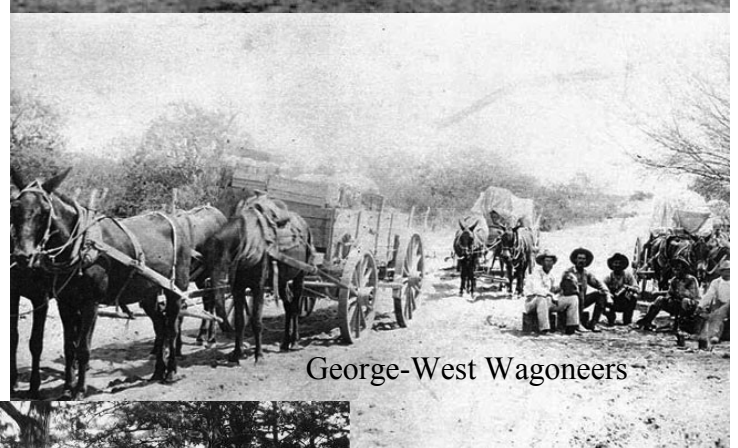
Kerrville Ox Wagon



Alamo used for storage



Kerrville Freight Wagon



George-West Wagoneers

The 1850's

Initially, most San Antonio trade was with Mexico and wagon trains of one hundred mules were not uncommon. This began to change with the development of sea ports and better connections with the north. Cattle drives set out to wherever the best prices could be found.

Sunday afternoon
in Comfort

A steer worth \$14 in Texas fetched \$100 in California, but the drive took over five months.

Do you notice the absence of cedars in the old photos?

HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING,
SEPTEMBER 15,
2012 AT 10:00
A.M. AT RIVERSIDE
NATURE CENTER.
MEMBERS ARE WEL-
COME TO ATTEND.

HCAA
P.O. Box
290393
KERRVILLE, TX
78029-0393

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