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GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

March 16, 2013

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center



2013 HCAA Field Work



Training Program Begins!

For HCAA members who are interested in going on any Field Work/Survey Projects this year. It is a definite benefit to take the Field Work Training Program, which starts on Saturday, March 9th. You will be able to cover all the techniques needed in the

field and lab, as well as have an excellent Handbook to review at your leisure. The Handbook may be purchased or used without marking in it since it is HCAA property. The Training Program is Free to Members.

If you have to miss a session, you will be given help in understanding the material covered. You will be guided throughout the Program so it is enjoyable.

Contact the instructors now to sign up or if you have any questions.

Instructors:

Steve Stoutamire,
Kay and Woody Woodward,
and
Bryant Saner



Jennifer Anderson will be the speaker at HCAA Meeting on 3/16/13

Jennifer Anderson was born and raised in Florida and graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of South Florida. After graduation, she attended field school at the University of Notre Dame. Before moving to Texas, Jennifer worked on both historic and prehistoric sites throughout Florida, Georgia, and Indiana. Currently, Jennifer is a graduate student at Texas State University-San Marcos, studying prehistoric archeology; and, she is in the final stages of research for her Master's Thesis on Angostura projectile points in Texas. Jennifer lives in the Austin area with her husband Troy and their Basset Hound, Maeby.

Ms. Anderson will be speaking on Angostura projectile points.

"In Texas, Angostura projectile points are numerous and highly variable. Interestingly, they are most commonly recovered as small basal fragments (less than 2 cm in length) exhibiting bend breaks. When complete, or nearly complete, Angostura points often show signs of being heavily reworked and reused. If the practice of repairing and reusing Angostura projectile points was common, it could explain why there exists so much morphological variability within the type. Her talk is an overview of the methodology and goals of the analysis of the Angostura projectile point type. Additionally, preliminary results from the macro- and microscopic analyses will be discussed. Ultimately, the goals of her study are to better understand the unique Angostura projectile point type and to determine how Angostura projectile points were used through macroscopic analysis, micro-wear analysis, and experimental analysis."

NOTE:

Ms Anderson, has suggested that members who suspect that they have Angosturas points are encouraged to bring them for her to look at and record/photograph. She is especially interested in broken basal fragments.

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The Alamo Today

The famous "Victory or Death" letter penned on February 24, 1836 by William Barret Travis, Commander of the Texian rebels in the former mission known as the Alamo, is carried Friday, February 22, 2013 to the Alamo by Alamo Rangers. The letter returned to the Alamo for the first time since it was dispatched by Travis during the battle. It was on display until March 7.

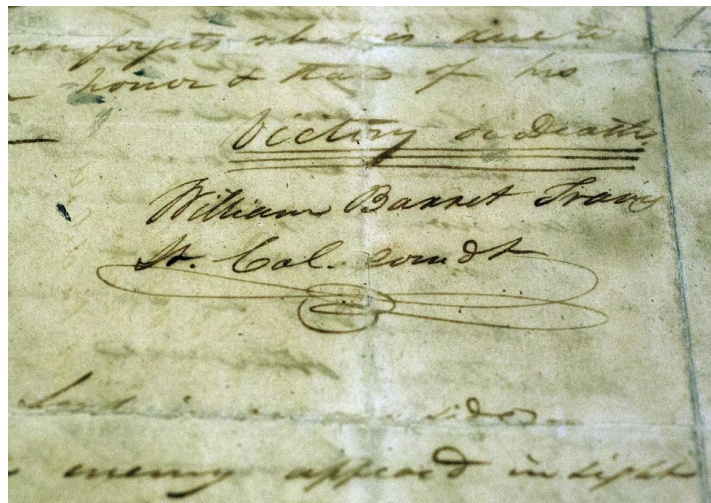
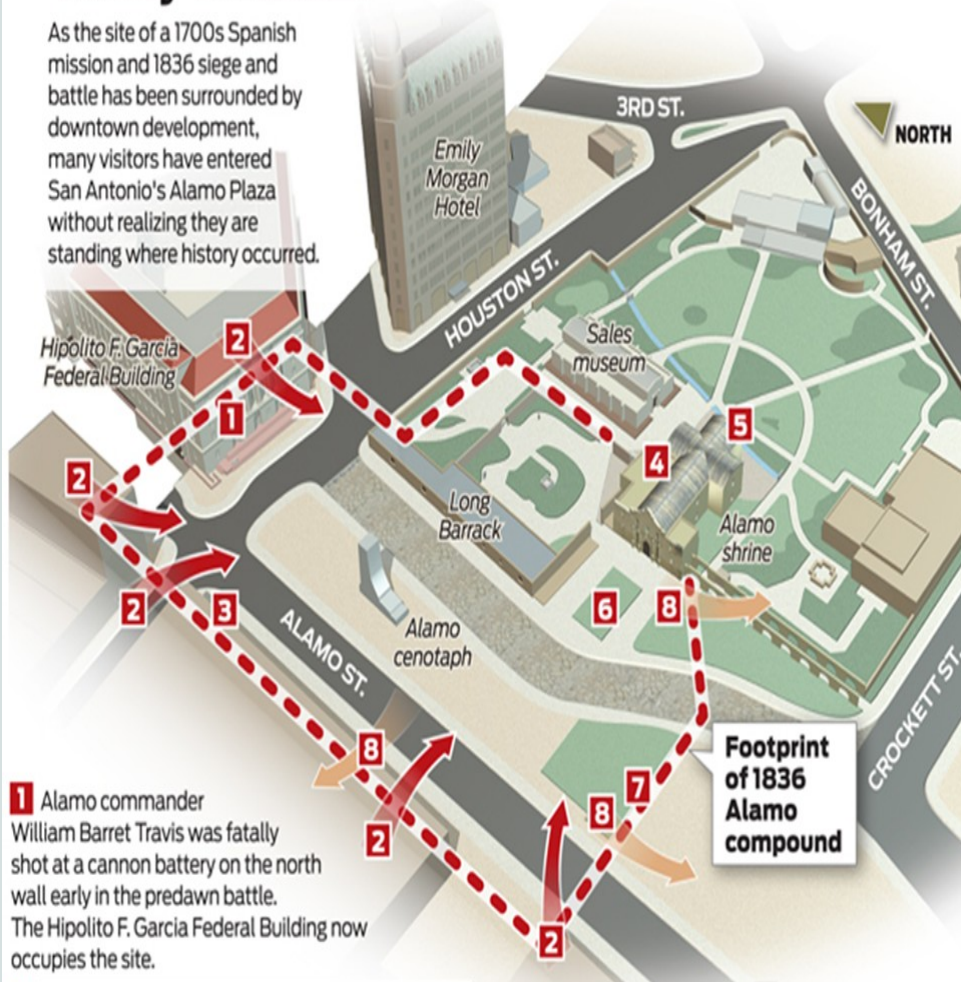


Photo: William Luther, San Antonio Express-News

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Today's Alamo

As the site of a 1700s Spanish mission and 1836 siege and battle has been surrounded by downtown development, many visitors have entered San Antonio's Alamo Plaza without realizing they are standing where history occurred.



1 Alamo commander William Barret Travis was fatally shot at a cannon battery on the north wall early in the predawn battle. The Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building now occupies the site.

2 Mexican forces breached the north wall, as well as the compound's west wall, eastern courtyards and southwest corner, prompting the Texian defenders to fall back into the Long Barrack and mission church. Both of those mission-era structures are still standing and are now part of the state-owned Alamo complex.

3 Travis is believed to have written his letters during the siege, including the famed "victory or death" appeal to the public, by the west wall, where Alamo headquarters and officers' quarters were located. Businesses now occupy the area next to the city-owned plaza.

4 Susanna Dickinson, her daughter Angelina and other defenders' family members who survived the battle sought shelter in the sacristy, one of the north rooms of the church.

5 A slope and ramp in the old mission church, which had no roof, led to a battery of cannons in the rear that were fired during the 1836 battle.

6 The area within and around today's rectangular Alamo lawn in front of the church is the site of a mission-era cemetery.

7 Jim Bowie, the volunteer commander who fell ill during the siege, was killed in a room by the south wall, just east of the Alamo's main gate.

8 Some Alamo defenders fled the compound, many heading south to the Alameda, a road lined with cottonwood trees, but were killed by mounted Mexican lancers. Their bodies were burned along what now is Commerce Street. Defenders fleeing west were quickly dispatched.

Sources: "Texas Iliad," by Stephen L. Hardin, with illustrations by Gary S. Zaboly; "Exodus from the Alamo," by Phillip Thomas Tucker; other sources.

Research by Scott Huddleston

Mike Fisher/San Antonio Express-News

Upcoming Events:

- HCAA Field Work Training Program starts on Saturday, March 9th
- HCAA Meeting 3-16-2013 at RNC starting at 12:30 PM
- TAS Archeobotany Event April 6 & 7, 2013 at RNC in Kerrville. Register via TAS website.
- 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/>
- TAS Field School June 15 to 22. Register via TAS website.
- Pecos Conference August 8 to 11. Flagstaff, AZ . More info at TAS.
- TAS Annual Meeting October 25 to 27 in Del Rio, TX.



It is that time of year again!

NOW is the time to make your 2013 HCAA Dues payment. Renewals will overdue on March 31st and will be subject to removal from our membership list. The Hill Country Archeological Association is classified as a Section 501 (c) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code and all donations, including membership dues, are tax deductible.

Dues Schedule

- ☐ Student (full time only) \$10
- ☐ Individual, Institutions and Societies \$25
- ☐ Family \$30
- ☐ Contributing \$50
- ☐ Supporting \$100
- ☐ Life \$250
- ☐ Patron \$500

Business Class Membership:

- ☐ Business \$250
- ☐ Corporate \$500

Make Checks payable to Hill Country Archeological Association and mail to:

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

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT HCAA
WEBSITE

www.hcarcheology.org

If you are renewing please make note of any changes to your phone, address or email.

Have We Been Slaves to fashion for 100,000 Years?

A new study of ancient beaded jewelry from a South African cave finds that ancient humans were already cognizant of fashion trends, avoiding outdated styles as early as 75,000 years ago.



Personal ornaments, often in the form of beads worn as necklaces or bracelets, are considered by archaeologists as a key sign of sophisticated symbolic behavior, communicating either membership in a group or individual identity. Such ornaments are ubiquitous in so-called Upper Paleolithic sites in Europe beginning about 40,000 years ago, where they were made from many different materials—animal and human teeth, bone and ivory, stone, and mollusk shells—and often varied widely among regions and sites.

Even more ancient personal ornaments go back to at least 100,000 years ago in Africa and the Near East. But this earlier jewelry seems less variable and was nearly always made from mollusk shells. So some archaeologists have questioned whether these earlier ornaments played the same symbolic roles as the later ones, or even whether they were made by humans at all. In a new study in press at the *Journal of Human Evolution*, a team led by archaeologist Marian Vanhaeren of the University of Bordeaux in France claims to have found evidence of a relatively sudden shift in the way that shell beads were strung. The beads were found at Blombos Cave in South Africa in archaeological layers dated between 75,000 and 72,000 years ago, during a time period marked by four distinct layers of artifacts called the Still Bay tradition. This tradition includes bone awls and sophisticated stone spear points and knives, as well as beads from jewelry: sixty-eight specimens of the southern African tick shell, *Nassarius*

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Five Texas parks are designated as Archaeological Parks of the US

Caddo Mounds



Located on 1649 State Hwy. 21 West, Alto, TX 75925

More than 1,200 years ago, a group of Caddo Indians known as the Hasinai built a village and ceremonial center 26 miles west of present-day Nacogdoches. The site was the southwestern-most ceremonial center for the great Mound Builder culture. Today, three earthen mounds still rise from the lush Pineywoods landscape at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, where visitors discover the everyday life and the history of this ancient civilization.

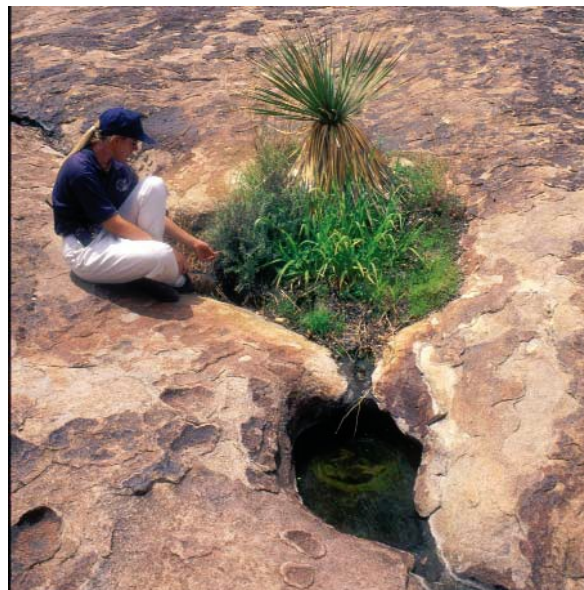
Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway



Located 3.5 miles north of State Highway 86 in Quitaque on FM 1065.

Home to the Official Bison Herd of the State of Texas! In September 2011, 80 descendants of the great southern plains bison herd were released to roam 700 acres of grasslands in the park. From a safe distance, visitors can view these indigenous animals in their native habitat.

Hueco Tanks State Historic Site



Located at 6900 Hueco Tanks Road #1, El Paso, Texas 79938

Hueco Tanks holds meaning for diverse groups of visitors. Hiking, picnicking, rock-climbing, camping, interpretive tours, birding and annual special events are among the available activities. The site also continues to be used for traditional Native American cultural activities and performances.

The Formations of Hueco Tanks State Historic Site rise above the Chihuahuan Desert floor to mark an oasis of nature and culture. Due to its geology, relatively abundant water and unusual structure, Hueco Tanks has served as a refuge for plants, animals and people for over 10,000 yrs. Thousands of pictograph by prehistoric and historic Native Americans are testament to the life sustaining power of Hueco Tanks.

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Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark



Located at 2401 Landmark Dr, Lubbock, TX.

Just minutes from the main campus of Texas Tech University, the 335-acre preserve is just north of North Loop 289 and Clovis Highway (US 84).

A unit of the Museum of Texas Tech University, the Lubbock Lake Landmark is an archaeological and natural history preserve at the northern edge of the city of Lubbock, Texas. The Landmark contains evidence of almost 12,000 years of occupation by ancient peoples on the Southern High Plains.

Seminole Canyon State Park & Historic Site



The park is located 9 miles west of Comstock on US Highway 90, just east of the Pecos River Bridge.

Visitors enjoy hiking, mountain biking, camping, historical study, and nature viewing. Fate Bell Shelter, in the canyon, contains some of North America's oldest

Native American pictographs and is one of the oldest cave dwellings in North America



Continued from page 4

Kraussianus, most found clustered together and thought to be part of individual necklaces or bracelets. All the shells are perforated with a single hole, and the team's microscopic studies—as well as experiments with shells of the same species collected near the site—have suggested that they were punctured with a finely tipped bone point. To get an idea of how the shell beads were worn, Vanhaeren and her colleagues examined the wear (smoothing) around the perforations and on other parts of the shells. They then carried out additional experiments in which *N. kraussianus* shells were shaken together for many hours at a time and exposed to a diluted vinegar solution meant to mimic human sweat, among other tests, while strung together in various ways. By stringing the shells themselves in various configurations, the team identified six possible ways that the beads could have been worn, including tying a knot around each shell, stringing them in a continuous row, braiding them with two strings at a time, and reversing the orientations of the shells to each other. Then, by analyzing the wear on the shells caused by these arrangements, Vanhaeren and colleagues determined just how the beads were strung. "In the lower [older] layers, the shells hang free on a string with their flat, shiny [sides] against each other," Vanhaeren says. But like all fashions, that one didn't last long: In the two upper, younger layers, "the shells are knotted together two by two, with their shiny side up" (see photos).

The team concludes that this is the earliest evidence of a shift in "social norms" or "customized style," a change that "parallels the many similar changes in symbolic norms observed among more recent and historically known human societies." It is not yet clear whether the earlier residents of Blombos changed their own fashion ideas, or if they were later replaced by another group of early humans who liked to wear their beads differently. Either way, the findings suggest that these beads, like jewelry today, served a fully symbolic function, the team concludes.

From *ScienceNOW*

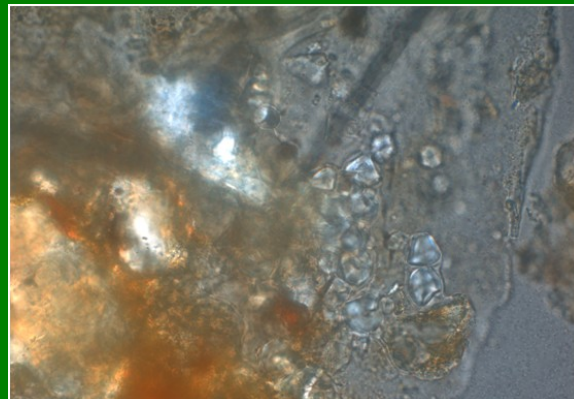


(Science/AAAS)

Oldest Pot found in China

The invention of pottery for collecting, storing, and cooking food was a key development in human culture and behavior. Until recently, it had been thought that the emergence of pottery was part of the Neolithic Revolution around 10,000 years ago, which also brought agriculture, domesticated animals, and groundstone tools. Finds of much older pottery have put this theory to rest. This year, archaeologists dated what is now thought to be the oldest known pottery in the world, from the site of Xianrendong Cave in the Jiangxi Province of southeastern China. The cave had been dug before, in the 1960s, 1990s, and 2000, but the dating of its earliest ceramics was uncertain. Researchers from China, the United States, and Germany reexamined the site to find samples for radiocarbon dating. While the area had particularly complex stratigraphy—too complex and disturbed to be reliable, according to some—the researchers are confident that they have dated the earliest pottery from the site to 20,000 to 19,000 years ago, several thousand years before the next oldest examples. “These are the earliest pots in the world,” says Harvard’s Ofer Bar-Yosef, a coauthor on the *Science* paper reporting the finds. He also cautions, “All this does not mean that earlier pots will not be discovered in South China.”

From **Science**



Scientists analyzed microscopic material on Neanderthal teeth found in Spain’s El Sidrón Cave to learn what the extinct hominins might have eaten.

Neanderthal Diet Revealed by Tooth Gunk.

The latest frontier in Neanderthal research is not the artifacts they left behind or remnants of their DNA. Rather, it is the gunk that stuck to their teeth. Karen Hardy of the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies in Spain and Stephen Buckley of the University of York in the United Kingdom used a variety of chemical analyses that helped uncover the first evidence that Neanderthals consumed medicinal plants. The team examined the chemicals embedded in the calcified plaque on the teeth of five Neanderthals dated to between 50,600 and 47,300 years ago from El Sidrón Cave in Spain. The analyses showed that the Neanderthals inhaled wood smoke, probably from a campfire, and that they had eaten cooked plant foods as well as the bitter-tasting medicinal plants chamomile and yarrow. “They had to have a body of knowledge about plants to select yarrow and chamomile,” says Hardy. The same analyses used in this study have the potential to be used on almost any tooth. According to Hardy, they could be used to provide direct evidence of hominin diets going back millions of years.

From **Science**

HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING,
MARCH 16, 2013
AT 10:00 A.M. AT
RIVERSIDE 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