

HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Your HCAA 2013 Board Members



Left to right: Jim Weathersbee, Penny Bryant, Stephen Bishop, Terry McTaggart, Ron Holm and John Benedict. Missing is Joe Luther.

GENERAL MEETING
Saturday
May 18, 2013
12:30 pm at
Riverside Nature Center

The purpose of the Hill Country Archeological Association is to bring together persons with an active interest in the archeology and prehistoric heritage of the Hill Country of Texas in an atmosphere conducive to the exchange of information and ideas, to educate the public about archeological preservation, to promote scientific archeological investigation and documentation, to preserve the archeological materials and records of the region, and to interpret and publish

data attendant thereto. All members agree to pledge that they will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any Texas and Federal Antiquities Statutes, as same now exist, or shall be hereafter amended or enacted, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifact s for commercial purposes or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data or disregard proper archeological field technique.



Sergio Ayala to Speak at HCAA Meeting on May 18, 2013. He will be discussing *The Calf Creek Horizon Technology, Typology & the Utility of Diagnostic Debitage*.

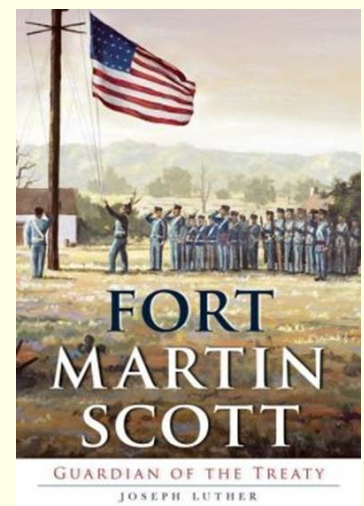
Sergio Ayala is a Research Assistant at the Gault School of Archaeological Research at Texas State University in San Marcos. Sergio also provides scientific illustration, photography, scannography, and lithic analysis. He did his BS degree in anthropology at Texas State University and is preparing for graduate studies. Sergio is researching the early-middle archaic Andice, Bell, and Calf-Creek technologies, utilizing their diagnosticdebitage and points to answer behavioral questions of the Calf-Creek Horizon. In addition to dedicating most of his time to laboratory work Sergio also helps with the Gault field work and is a flint-knapper.

The Calf-Creek Horizon is an early-middle archaic cultural period of foragers and bison hunters that invested a great deal of time and skill in producing some of the more complex projectile points and technology in the archaeological record of the Americas, the Calf-Creek & Andice Projectile Points. These points have been studied extensively in Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas (Andice). The manufacturing technology of these points produce a diagnostic notching-flake as diagnostic of culture and time as the points themselves, regardless of over-all point variability in size and shape across the prairieland boundaries of the Calf-Creek and Andice geographic ranges. They are also very small, requiring little energy to move in soil contexts. These two qualities are of high interest.

Area 15 of the Gault Site contains an intact Andice component. These diagnostic notching flakes help measure depositional integrity and provide evidence that vertisols are not always "lethal" to archaeological contexts, as proposed by Lathel Duffield in 1969. Additionally, this study combines notching-flake analysis across the entire geographic ranges of Calf-Creek and Andice points with comparative experimental notching-flake manufacturing. Though preliminary, this research contributes insights into the technological and typological discussions of the Calf-Creek Horizon.

HOT OFF THE PRESS, as they say...

One of HCAA's own continues to bring the history of the old west alive in an entertaining and informative format. For those of you who have not heard, **Joe Luther** has just published his most recent book on Texas history – *Fort Martin Scott: Guardian of the Treaty*, following the success of his first book – *Camp Verde: Texas Frontier Defense* – which was the best seller for The History Press in 2012. Joe is Principal of Old School Research, a historical archeology research firm in Kerrville. He was elected Archeologist of the Year in 2012 by the Hill Country Archeological Association.



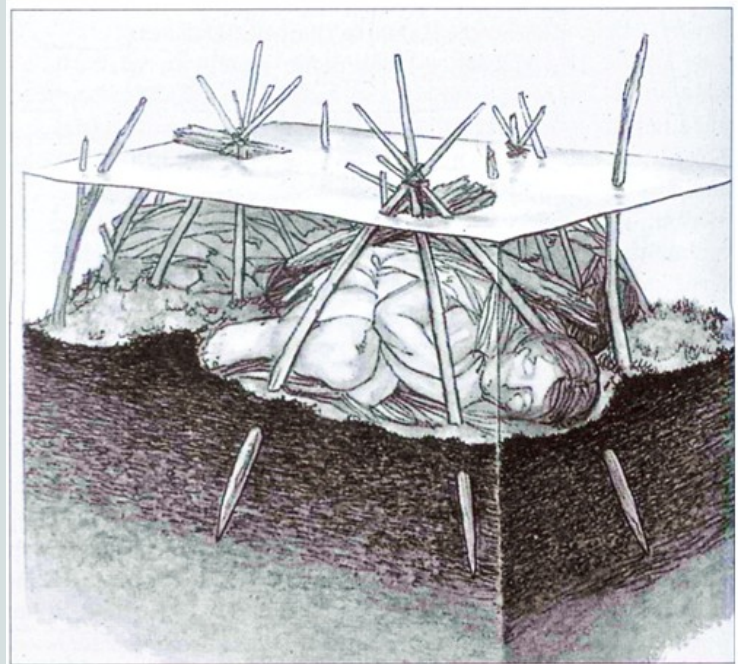
Talking Bones —A Book Review—

Book: "*Life and Death at Windover*" by Rachel Wentz

With today's investigative methods, prehistoric buried bodies and the associated grave goods can tell us so much about people that lived thousands of years ago—it is truly amazing. The book, "*Life and Death at Windover*" by Dr. Rachel K. Wentz, 2012, follows the discovery, excavations and findings of more than 160 bodies and their associated grave goods in a 7,000 year old pond cemetery site in Florida. The cemetery is close enough to Cape Canaveral that their ghosts could watch the take-off of every space craft that has left earth from J. F. Kennedy Space Center.

Keep in mind these prehistoric Indians were burying their dead in this cemetery 2,000 years before the first Egyptian pyramid was build. Lucky for us the water levels and chemical conditions of this particular pond have remained ideal for preserving human bones and soft tissue, textiles, wood, and leather for more than 7,000 years—even their brains and intestinal tracks are present!!! Surprisingly DNA analysis of these people has shown they are not related to any American Indians of today, but rather their closes relatives are in Asia. Gut contents were found in many of the individuals. They contained seeds of wild grapes, elderberries and prickly pear cactus fruit, often in large quantities. These people wove textiles to make clothing, bags, matting, blankets, and ponchos.

But I am giving away the mysteries that researcher/writer Dr. Rachel Wentz and her fellow archeologists uncovered in the Windover pond muck. You need to read it for yourself to really enjoy their discoveries!



In her early life, Rachel was a firefighter/paramedic but after 10 years of blood and guts, and rushing into burning buildings, she wanted a tamer profession! She become an anthropologist and archeologist. Dr. Wentz is now a bioarcheologist and Director of the Florida Public Archeology Network. She writes this book as the story of her life—as the events unfold—and of the discovery and excavation, and ongoing revelations from the burials at Windover.

Rachel also applies her knowledge and skill in medicine to determine the level of health and physical conditions of these Windover burials by examining their bones, teeth and soft tissues for clues. It is a fun and informative read about one of the most important archeological sites in the North America!!! (Published by Florida Historical Society, 145 pp., ISBN 10: 1-886104-55-7).

Review by John H. Benedict, May 2013

**For articles, updates, and links please follow us at
Hill Country Archeology Association on facebook**



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.**

Annual Symposium

May 19, 2013

Each year the Mason County Historical Commission hosts a historical symposium which includes noted western history writers and historians. Subjects vary but generally deal with historical events tied to Mason County. Past symposiums covered the Hoo Doo War (Mason County War), Indian Captives, post civil war reconstruction, Cattle Drives in Mason County, German Immigration, Fort Mason and Pistol Packin' Preachers.

"Comanches in the Hill Country of Texas" will include guest speakers Glenn Frankel, Donaly Brice, Dan Gelo, Esther Lehmann and Scott Zesch. The event will be held at 2 pm in the Odeon Theatre, located on the west side of the Square in Mason.

Mayan Pyramid bulldozed by Belize construction Crew

BBC News 5/14/13. Officials in Belize say a construction company has destroyed one of the country's largest Mayan pyramids.

Head of the Belizean Institute of Archaeology Jaime Awe said the Noh Mul temple was leveled by a road-building company seeking gravel for road filler.

The Mayan temple dates back to pre-Columbian times and is estimated to be 2,300 year old. Only a small core of the pyramid was left standing.

Police said they were investigating the incident.



New Archeology Site Registered by HCAA

Randy's Retreat, 41GL454, was registered in Gillespie County on February 8, 2013. Hill Country Archeological Association members surveyed the site at the request of the landowner, who had found lithic artifacts on his property. A team of HCAA members surveyed the property by walked it and looking on the surface for evidence of prehistoric peoples. They found a thin layer, maybe 20 cm (8 inches) thick, of fire-cracked limestone

rock surrounded on the surface by cultural chert flakes and tool fragments. The fire cracked rock from cooking formed a Burned Rock Midden (i.e., BRM) roughly circular and 30 or so meters (100 feet) in diameter. The burned rock midden was discovered by Bryant Saner on a small rise forming a second river terrace not far from Marshall Creek.

The cultural chert was most abundant on the down slope towards the creek, and formed the outer boundary of the site approximately oval and 50 meters (165 feet) long. The lithic scatter was light, consisting of fragments of scrapers and knives, dart points, and flakes produced by prehistoric Indians knapping new and reworking old stone tools.

The site was recorded as an occupational campsite based on the fire cracked rock remnants of an earth and hot-rock cooking oven, and the lithic tool fragments and flakes.



Figure 1. Surface finds, Randy's Retreat:

a. thin biface fragment; b. thin uniface flake graver; c. flake debitage; d. uniface edge modified; e. flake debitage; f. uniface edge modified; g. uniface scraper; h. spoke shave scraper; and i. scraper/blank.

The only diagnostic artifact found in the area of the site was a Peder-nales dart point found by the owner. It would date to the middle archaic period, 2,500 to 4,500 years ago.

Gillespie county has 454 registered archeological sites, and a number can be found within 10 miles of Randy's Retreat prehistoric campsite. Most of these sites are also campsites with BRM

remnants of hot rock and earth ovens surrounded by scatters of lithic tool fragments and debitage. However some are chert procurement sites where chert was collected by prehistoric people to be made into new tools.

Today there are a number of good springs in the area that always have good water flow. Their flow was likely even better when prehistoric Indians roamed here. Also present are Oak, Pecan, Texas Persimmon, and Hackberry trees, as well as an abundance of Sotal and Yucca plants, all known to be eaten by prehistoric Indians. These hunter-gather peoples were likely attracted to the area by the availability of water, game, chert, and plant food resources.

Submitted by John Benedict



THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL IN TEXAS

The term "stagecoach" is derived from the fact that these vehicles traveled in segments, or "stages" of 15-20 miles in length. At a stage stop, horses would be changed and travelers could refresh themselves or sleep for the night at the taverns which served the coaches. Weather, wrecks, and road hooligans made the stage trip a memorable adventure. Some say the name "Dashboard" which is still used in today's cars, originated on the stagecoach. The flat board where the feet sit and where the brake pedal was, was commonly used to slow or stop runaway horses. The driver would lean back in the seat, pushing his feet against this board while pulling back on the reins when the horses "dashed off". Hence the name "Dash Board".

155 years ago the Butterfield Overland Mail's maiden trip from St. Louis to San Francisco that linked America's East and West together took place for the first time. One-fourth (740 miles) of this 2800-mile road that connected the nation ran through Texas. More information on the Butterfield Overland Mail in Texas available at texashistory.com.

May is Historical Preservation Month

HCAA friend and member, Stephen Black, sponsors the Experimental Archaeology Club at San Marcos.

The University Star, San Marcos, TX. April 2013. Students feeling the urge to explore the cultural habits of prehistoric civilizations are given the opportunity through the Experimental Archaeology Club.

Texas State students are given the opportunity to explore the cultural habits of prehistoric civilizations through the Experimental Archaeology Club.

The Experimental Archaeology Club is a group of primarily anthropology students seeking to test the survival habits of 11,000-year-old Texas inhabitants. Club activities include networking, testing pre-historic tools and weapons, and practicing Paleo-American (the ancestors of Native Americans) cooking habits.

Members do not have to be licensed archaeologists experienced with excavating prehistoric remains. Current members are simply students testing existing archaeological theories.

"We're trying to better understand human behavior," said Stephen Black, assistant professor of anthropology and club faculty sponsor.

Black studies Paleo-American people who lived in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands in Texas along the Rio Grande. They were hunter-gatherers who lived in a harsh environment, creating new practices and technologies to adapt and survive. Some of these same practices were used by Paleo-Americans who lived in the San Marcos area.

"We try to develop experiments that link the past to the present," said Jerod Roberts, anthropology senior.

Club members explore specific factors and concepts not easily understood at archaeological sites. One purpose, according to the club, is to figure out how prehistoric ovens functioned and understand hardships prehistoric people endured to survive.

Members dug a meter-wide, foot-and-a-half-deep hole in ground. They then heated up rocks by burning logs and pieces of wood below the surface. They removed the logs and placed prickly pear cactus pads over the rocks when the stones were heated to 800 to 600 degrees Celsius. The food was placed on top of the prickly pears with additional cactus pads set over the food and then coated with a mound of dirt.

However, the club members pointed out these earth-oven reenactments are not completely accurate. Prehistoric civilizations that used them wound up having dirt in their food

from lacking shovels and other modern tools or aluminum foil to keep the meals clean.

"We are very pampered," Roberts said.

Vicki Munoz, club president and anthropology senior, said meat was a rarity and required a lot of effort to obtain and cook. She said the Paleo-Americans' diets were mostly vegetarian. What the club cooked in the recreated ovens would be considered a feast.

It takes about two to three hours to cook the food using an earth oven. In this time, the club socializes and experiments with other recreated prehistoric tools like the atlatl, an 18-inch stick used to launch spears.

The club schedules the earth-oven experiment each semester, the most recent of which was held on Saturday.

"We try to do it a couple times a semester," Munoz said.

The club holds experiments on the 140-acre property of Grady Early, former faculty member, approximately five miles from west campus. Early's property is additionally used for other anthropology projects, including forensics.

Upcoming Events:

- **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/>**
- **Mason County Symposium "Comanches in the Hill Country of Texas", May 19, 2013 Odeon Theatre, Mason TX.**
- **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.**

HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING,
MAY 18, 2013 AT
10:00 A.M. AT RIV-
ERSIDE NATURE
CENTER. MEMBERS
ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND.

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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