

HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Preserving the Past

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If you are new to HCAA or not present for the founding of the organization, your editor thought it would be of interest to the membership to look at where we started and where we are now. An esteemed member, who has been with us for the whole HCAA story, has graciously taken on the task of writing our history as an organization. Thank you Kay Woodward for being a voice for HCAA

THIS IS HOW IT ALL STARTED....

In February, 1999, Robert "Bobby" Rector, a well-known Kerrville professional archeologist, sent a letter to professional and avocational Texas archeologists asking their interest and support in helping form a new archeological group in Kerrville. From their replies and offers of assistance, on the long weekend of March 19-21, 1999, an "Archeology Rendezvous on the River" was held at the Kerrville-Schreiner State Park, sponsored by Texas Archeological Society and Texas Historical Commission. On hand to present activities at this successful event were Bryant Saner, Dan Potter, Curt Harrell, Allen Bettis, Nick Morgan, Logan McNatt, Don Shirley, Tom Middlebrook, John DeStefano, Reeda Peel, Ray Smith and the speaker, Dr. Mike Collins. This event sparked great interest in archeology in the Kerrville area.

An article in the Kerrville Daily Times stated a new archeological group would gather on Thursday, April 22, 1999, at the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library meeting room at 7 p.m. This organization would focus on "promoting the preservation, documentation and excavation of sites threatened with destruction in the Hill Country." There was a good turnout at this meeting, during which the organization name of "Hill Country Archeological Association" (HCAA) was voted on and chosen. An interim board of directors was set up to get the business of the organization started. They were Vernon Harrison, Scott Hobbs, Sue Jensen-Hobbs, Bobby Rector and Bryant Saner. Vernon Harrison agreed to apply for a charter for the association.

The next meeting was held on Saturday May 15, 1999 at the Butt-Holdsworth Library. Officers elected were: Bryant Saner, President; Sue Jensen-Hobbs, Vice-President; Brenda Harrison, Secretary, and T. G. "Woody" Woodward, Treasurer. The three Board Directors elected were: Bobby Rector, Scott Hobbs and Vernon Harrison. Annual dues were set at Full time Student: \$10; Active (individual, institutions, & societies) \$15; Family \$20; Contributing \$50; Supporting \$100; Life Member \$250; and Patron \$500. By-laws were also created, patterned after those of the Southern Texas Archeological Association. Within a short while, HCAA become incorporated, had non-profit status, a set of written Ethics, and with the generous donations given, just over \$1000.00 in the treasury. It was agreed that anyone participating in any HCAA field project must be a member in good standing, and HCAA meetings were open to the public. It was decided that those who joined prior to August 1, 1999, would be Charter Members.

{In April, on the 15th Anniversary of HCAA, we will name those who remain active and paid Charter Members.}

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GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

March 15, 2014

12:30 PM at

Riverside Nature Center

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On May 16, 1999, an application for membership form was drawn up and 15 members present signed as Charter Members. Bryant Saner then lead the group for the first field trip to KWMA property. At the recorded Hatfield Shelter, 41KR493, we viewed rock art and took photos. This was an open peaceful rock shelter above the Guadalupe River, with red, black and light blue fading, damaged rock art. Bobby Rector was able to take photos with his digital camera and used the image of what appeared to be a horse to design HCAA's logo for use on stationery, tee shirts, hats, etc. It was agreed we could monitor this area as an association project for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to make these areas more visible from the road and perhaps cut down on the illegal digging.

In June, 2000, our first newsletter was published by members Bill and Cheryl Wildfong.

On July 24, 1999, HCAA hosted the STAA at Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. The three speakers were: Bobby Rector, discussing his findings at "The Whitfield Scott Site in Downtown Kerrville." Second speaker was Bryant Saner, discussing, "The Hatfield Pictograph Shelter in Western Kerr County", and then, Dr. Steve Black, talking about "Solving the Mysteries of Indian Mounds in Central Texas." Thus began alternate event hosting that lasted several years.

On the following day, Sunday, July 25, 1999, HCAA members went for their first field work together at the Cypress Springs site in West Kerr County. Bobby Rector was in charge. There were 25 enthusiastic persons doing surveys and shovel tests. This project eliminated those who wanted just to collect, and demonstrated those who wanted to do proper archeology. This work was completed in the fall.

In 40 degrees on January 26, 2000, a hardy crew of 10 went to KWMA to work on clearing debris and lowering branches, etc. to halt the looters. Those working with clippers, chain saws, and hand tools were: Carl Moore, Virgil Altwein, Vernon Harrison, Jose Contreras, George Kolb, LaVona and Von Evans, Tom Gainer, Woody and Kay Woodward. Two hours of hard work brought lots of branches and deadfall which were smashed down over and over again to fill the large dug out pits.

On February 24, 2000, a plaque was presented to Bryant Saner for his guidance during the beginning of the Hill Country Archeological Association. Bryant resigned due to job demands. Vernon Harrison took the President position and Sue Jensen-Hobbs, as a Director, agreed to be the next in-coming President when she finished her work with THC and TAS. All other board members remained in place.

On March 18, 2000, "Rendezvous on the River II" took place, again at the Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Highlight of the event was the arrival and showing of a French- origin bronze cannon. The cannon was recovered from the Matagorda Bay site then believed to be the location of French explorer de La Salle's ship, "La Belle". One of the speakers at the event was Jim Bruseth, who later wrote a historical archeological book about the ship, "La Belle".

In May of 2000, HCAA began to hold meetings at Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in downtown Kerrville, rather than at the library.

On April 30, 2000, an emergency Board meeting was called because the president, Vernon Harrison, and the secretary, Brenda Harrison, resigned for personal reasons on April 17, 2000. Sue Jensen-Hobbs, was appointed to complete the president's term of office, in accordance with the By-laws. Bryant Saner was appointed to be Vice-President, and in charge of programs and speakers for the association. After contacting member Penny Brown, she agreed to be the secretary and was appointed by the Board, and Jose Contreras was appointed to fill the vacant Director position. Kay Woodward served as recording secretary during this called meeting.

All of the year 2000 continued to be one of change, challenge and vital growth for HCAA. Christina Weinzierl, an archeologist moved to Ingram and worked at the Kerrville library. She attended our first meetings at KACC, and cataloged our newly-acquired library. She obtained additional publications for HCAA at a savings. In May, Bryant led several of us to a mid-1800's dog-trot log cabin in SE Gillespie County where survey and excavation work was completed. Then, from late July and continuing off and on for two years, several members worked with Bryant doing a survey at the 6491-acre tract where TPWD uses to study wild game management, KWMA.

Our Executive Board for 2001 was: President: Jose Contreras; Vice-Pres: Bryant Saner; Secretary: Christina Weinzierl; Treasurer: Woody Woodward; Directors: George Kolb; Carl Moore and Bobby Rector.

Some of the projects undertaken during 2001 were: Another brush and debris clean-up at KWMA in February; The new Our Lady of the Hills Catholic High School 75- acre survey, also in February; a lithics workshop conducted by Bryant Saner in March; continuation of survey work at KWMA in March; a Rendezvous on the River III in April; and a new Archeology Fair Celebration at KACC in October. Both these successful events were supported by STAA, CAR, TPWD, THC, LUAS, and many, many HCAA members.

We have set the stage for the reader, so will rapidly move through the following years of HCAA's growth next month. Needless to say, there were many challenges throughout those years, but the organization fortunately never suffered through a period of decline. **To be continued....**



If it's what I think it is, we've got some work ahead of us.

Speaker for March 15, 2014 HCAA Meeting is Eric Oksanen



Mr. Oksanen is a District Archeologist for the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Division. His talk will be on **The Gatlin Site (41KR621): Prehistoric Living Re-visited**. The Gatlin Site spans more than 6,000 years of human activity. Who did what, when, how, and why? Sifting through the enormous assemblage of artifacts and features, he will examine how the site was used and changed through time and critique the decisions made in the analyses.

Since 1994, after graduating with a degree in History from the University of Toronto, where he also studied archaeometry in a joint physics and archeology program, he has been working in Texas archeology. Mr. Oksanen was in the inaugural Texas State-San Marcos Anthropology Graduate Studies class in 2003. At Texas State, he worked as a Project Archeologist for Dr. Britt Bousman, Director for the Center for Archeology Studies (CAS) and from CAS he was hired by SWCA. His work at Texas State focused on Early Archaic sites and Kevin Miller of SWCA hired him to complete the report for a TxDOT project of a site in Kerrville-41KR621-.He states "I was to have no other duties and I discovered I was the fourth author to attempt the report. After the report was completed, I was granted a leave of absence from SWCA, and was subsequently hired by Dr. Steve Tomka Director of the Center of Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR) to join his staff as a Research Scientist and Project Archeologist".

At CAR, he directed a series of data recovery excavations along the San Antonio River that encountered evidence of prehistoric structures. In addition to data recovery excavations, he was also under contract as a District Archeologist to TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division. In 2012, Mr. Oksanen was hired as a TxDOT archeologist by Dr. Scott Pletka, Supervisor of the Archeology Studies Program, and assuming responsibility for the district of the retiring Al McGraw-the TxDOT archeologist who was the reviewer and project manager of the Gatlin Site project and report.

New Evidence Suggests Ice Age Humans Lived For 10,000 Years On Bering Land Bridge

Posted by: Mike Nace March 3, 2014

Researchers last week announced that new archaeological and DNA evidence suggests that as early humans from the Ice Age made their way across Asia and onto the North American continent, they likely paused in journey, surviving in incredibly daunting arctic conditions for about 10,000 years before making their way to warmer climes.

As part of a recent news release from last week, scientists have discovered that the territory known as the Bering Land Bridge, which once linked Siberia to Alaska, was the permanent home to generations of Ice Age peoples, according to fossil evidence which shows that shrubby lowlands that once thrived in that region could have been enough to support human habitation. The findings have been corroborated with DNA data derived from ancestors of those people, which can still be found in the modern Native American population.

Texas A&M Prof Says Discovery Of Alaska Spear Points Raises New Questions About Human Arrival In North America

Posted by: Charles Moore November 1, 2013

A team of researchers associated with the Center for the Study of the First Americans (CSFA) at Texas A&M University observe that dispersal of *Homo sapiens* across the Americas is one of the greatest chapters in the history of our species, but major questions about this late Pleistocene diaspora remain unanswered.

In a new scientific paper co-written by members of the team and published online in the the online version of the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, they note that two contentious issues are the timing of colonization of the Bering Land Bridge and origin of Clovis, which at 13,000 calendar years ago is the earliest unequivocal complex of archaeological sites in temperate North America, known by its specialized fluted spear points, and that the 2005 discovery of fluted spear points in northwest Alaska strongly suggests that early humans carrying American technology lived on the central Bering Land Bridge about 12,000 years ago, showing that peopling of the Americas was more complex than previously believed.

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HCAA Board 2014
John Benedict, Penny Bryant, Donna Brewton, Stephen Bishop,
Judy Carswell, Ron Holm, Terry Farley

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The research team's Alaska project is led by Texas A&M University professor of anthropology Ted Goebel, includes his TAMU colleagues Mike Waters, Heather Smith and Kelly Graf, as well as researchers from Baylor University, the University of Georgia, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Desert Research Institute was funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and National Park Service's Shared Beringia Heritage Program, observe that two contentious issues regarding migration of people to the Americas are the timing of colonization of the Bering Land Bridge, and the origin of Clovis 13,000 calendar years ago, which is the earliest unequivocal complex of archaeological sites in temperate North America, known by its specialized fluted spear points.

Bio News Texas



The Hill Country Archeological Association elected the new Board of Directors on Saturday, January 18, 2014. The 2014 officers are: Stephen Bishop of Boerne, President; John Benedict of Boerne, Vice President; Donna Brewton of Mountain Home, Secretary; and Penny Bryant of Tarpley returns for the third year as the Treasurer. The new Board Directors are: Ron Holm of Kerrville, Judy Carswell of Kerrville and Teresa Farley of Kerrville.

Steve Stoutamire will serve as chairman of the Field Work and Training Committee, Bryant Saner will continue as program chair and "Ancient Echoes" Editor, and Kay Woodward will continue as publicity chair.

Outgoing president, Ron Holm presented the Archeologist of the Year 2013 Award to John Benedict for his contributions in local historical research and field project work, and as the contributing author to the HCAA Website and publications which resulted in positive attention brought to HCAA. The membership agreed this was well deserved for the large number of sites that John had recorded this past year and all his other efforts on behalf of the organization.

New look to HCAA website

HCAA has been upgrading the organization's website with the help of Sharon Benedict. If you have visited recently, you have noticed the changes. Ms. Benedict has been making great progress and HCAA is continuing to develop new ideas on how to make best use of the website. Members are encouraged to make recommendations.

Editor's Note:

You probably noticed some differences in the news letter format this issue. Computers are wonderful things....when they work. Somehow we have become so dependent on them that we cease to function when faced with a major crash.

I have been barrowing a new computer (courtesy of my church) which for some reason was sent out into the world with Windows 8. If you have not had the opportunity to face the abyss of Windows 8, you are blessed. New versions of MS Publisher and MS Word with new operating instructions, have just added to the fun.

Anyway, it was time for a new look.

Penny

HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGY ASSOCIATION

**HCAA BOARD
WILL MEET SATUR-
DAY MORNING
MARCH 15, 2014
AT 10:00 AM
RIVERSIDE NATURE
CENTER.
MEMBERS ARE
WELCOME TO
ATTEND**

HCAA
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KERRVILLE, TX
78029-0393

A REMINDER

The HCAA is thankful to the many land owners who graciously allow us to survey their property for archeological sites. We should constantly remind ourselves that:

All artifacts found on their property belong to them. HCAA members keep no artifacts.

If an archeological site is identified on their property, the location of the ranch should remain confidential.

We visit a property only with 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.

The HCAA offers its archeological activities as a community service.

HCAA members will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any Federal or Texas Antiquities Statutes, as same now exist, or shall hereafter be amended or enacted, or engage in the practice of buying or selling of artifacts for commercial purposes or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data or disregard proper archeological field techniques.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED