



A Review of HCAA Activities in 2023 Presented by the HCAA Board of Directors

To our Members and Friends

The year of 2023 brought much success and progress for the Hill Country Archeological Association. In pursuing HCAA's mission of Education, Research, and Conservation, we were active on many fronts. One of our main guides in measuring our success is the continued addition of new Members as well as the loyalty of our long-term Members.

This review is both a huge "Thank You!" for your ongoing support, and also a demonstration of our stewardship of the financial funding and trust that you have placed with us.

We hope you enjoy this recap of 2023 and learn more about your organization and our contributions to Hill Country history, education, and conservation.

And as you learn about all of our activities, we hope that our Friends who are not current Members will consider joining us.

In 2024 we celebrate the **25th Anniversary** of HCAA's founding. To remember and honor our Founders as well as all of the Leadership and Members who have been a part of our ongoing success, we are planning another year of new and exciting programs!

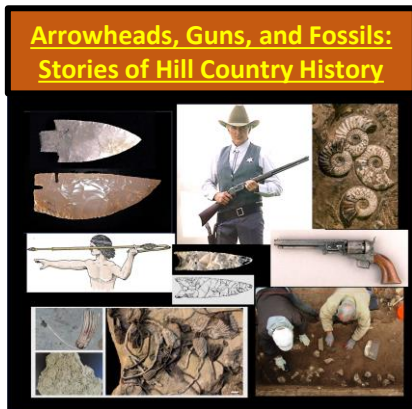
Contact us at:

www.hcarcheology.org
contact@hcarcheology.org

HCAA General Meetings

Our bi-monthly meetings have been a central part of our outreach and education programs. Not only for the excellent speakers that we have had, but also the times of social gathering with other archeology enthusiasts. Lecture topics for 2023 were quite varied and very entertaining.


We started in January with our own set of experts presenting multiple “show & tell” tables and talks on historic and prehistoric artifacts from Kerr County. Other lecture topics ranged from Dr. David Kilby’s work at Bonfire Shelter, Dr. Gus Costa speaking about alligator fat and other smelly applications used as mosquito repellants by Historic Native Americans, Dr. Robert Lassen’s talk on a prehistoric burial in Crane County, and a very timely presentation on the histories of early African-American families and the historical Colored People’s Church and Cemetery in Fredericksburg by Dr. Paul Phillips. We ended the year with HCAA President Mike McBride presenting a report on our 5 year research and excavation project at Crying Woman Ranch.



HCAA General Meetings


Our meetings are also the opportunities for new members to sign up and all attendees can participate in the book sales and raffles held at each meeting. This year's raffle items included custom-designed jewelry, western artwork, hand-carved wooden bowls from our own Trudy Eberhardt, and replica projectile points flintknapped by President Mike McBride. The raffles are a fun way to support our fundraising and go home with a new treasure. This year the book sales and raffle contributions added nearly \$1,000 of financial support to fund our work! Thank you!

HCAA General Meeting – Raffle!





Replica GOLONDRINA Point
Paleoindian Period: 7,000 – 6,000BC
Edwards "Root Beer" Chert : Gillespie Co. TX
Mike McBride : April, 2023

As part of our General Meeting fundraiser, one of our raffle items will be this replica Golondrina point. Mike made it from local "Root Beer" flint, and this point is a copy of Golondrina points recovered from the CWR project (below). Recovery of Golondrina points helps us date parts of CWR to 9,000 years ago!



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Alice Seely Vintage Pin with Anasazi Petroglyph Designs



Pin with Anasazi Petroglyph designs

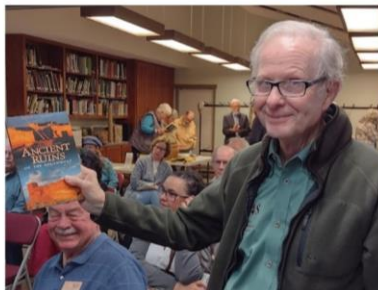
The raffle will also include this piece of vintage Pueblo design jewelry by well-known New Mexico artist Alice Seely. She is best known for her wearable art, featuring designs inspired by the petroglyph images found throughout the American West; her designs are featured on earrings, bracelets, pendants and brooches, cast in pewter and hand finished by the artist.

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All Raffle donations go toward HCAA's mission of Education, Conservation, and Research!



March Meeting Raffle Winners!



Membership and Fundraising

Having an engaged Membership and generous Donors is the lifeblood of any non-profit community organization. This year, we launched the **Steve Stoutamire Memorial Fund**. In late 2022, HCAA lost a dear friend and leader. Over his 8 year tenure, Steve served as HCAA President, Board Member, Fieldwork Committee Chairman, Mentor, Author, Researcher, and State Archeological Steward. To honor Steve's leadership, contributions to our organization, and warm friendship, and to create a lasting memorial to our dear friend, the HCAA Board of Directors has established the Steve Stoutamire Memorial Fund. All donations will help advance HCAA's mission of outreach, education, research, and preservation of the historical heritage of the Texas Hill Country, which Steve was passionate about. This Memorial Fund is our sole focus for fundraising. In 2023, donations to the Fund were over \$6,000! Sincere thanks to all of our generous donors and sponsors!

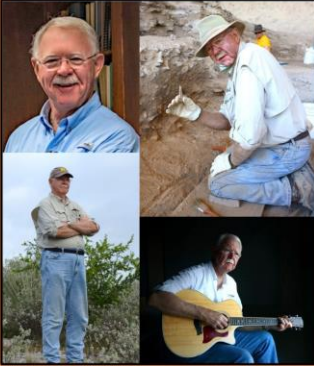
HILL COUNTRY ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Preserving the Past

www.HCArcheology.org

~ The Steve Stoutamire Memorial Fund ~

HCAA President, Board Member, Fieldwork Committee Chairman, Author, Researcher, Steward



In order to create a lasting memorial to our dear friend and leader, the HCAA Board of Directors has established the **Steve Stoutamire Memorial Fund**. All donations will help advance HCAA's mission of outreach, education, and research that Steve was so passionate about.

All donation amounts are truly appreciated!
Your donation supports HCAA expenses like:

- Costs of the General Meetings & Speaker honorariums
- Fieldwork and lab equipment and supplies
- Radiocarbon dating of archeological material
- Scholarships for Members to attend archeology conferences and academies

Ways to donate
Website: www.hcarcheology.org
Check: made out to HCAA Please mail to
HCAA, PO Box 290393, Kerrville, TX 78029-0393

Thank You for Your Kind Remembrance & Support!

We hope that this review gives you an appreciation of the work and dedication that HCAA has toward our community. We truly value your Membership and participation. If you are not a Member, we gladly welcome you to join and participate with us.

We also hope that this review provides a look at the stewardship of your donations toward community outreach and excellence in archeological research.

Please consider supporting our work through a donation to the Steve Stoutamire Memorial Fund.

All of our Membership and Donation information is at www.hcarcheology.org

Community Outreach and Education:
Schreiner University Texas Heritage Days

For the past several years, we have been invited by Schreiner University in Kerrville to participate in their Texas Heritage Days event. Focusing on Texas history education for Jr. High and High School youth, this year's September event also brought out parents, teachers, and other adults to learn about the rich mix of Texas cultural heritage, and people. Not deterred by a morning rain shower, HCAA members set up our tables and educational materials, and we were visited by scores of students, teachers, families, along with reenactors and crafts-people demonstrating their talents. A fun day educating young folks and adults about history and preservation.



HCAA Research at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Continues

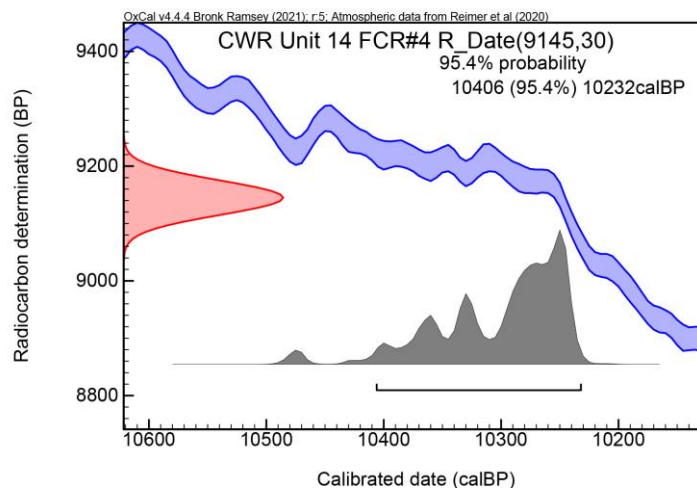
This year completes the 5th year of fieldwork and lab work at the Crying Woman Ranch Project (CWR) in western Kerr County. The site continues to amaze and excite us with continuous new and important discoveries. Among the significant additions to our research this year were the addition of new radiocarbon dates. This dating on remnants of camping, cooking, and other human activities, mainly charcoal and butchered animal bones, is the “gold standard” of securing the time periods of such activity. Although somewhat expensive (each sample costs around \$500 to analyze), the generosity of our members and donors has allowed us to continually obtain this state-of-the-art data. Our recent publication on the CWR Project is at <http://tinyurl.com/ancientechoes2022>



Recovering charcoal from the rock cooking griddle, Unit 14 Feature 1.
Radiocarbon dating is 10,250 years ago.

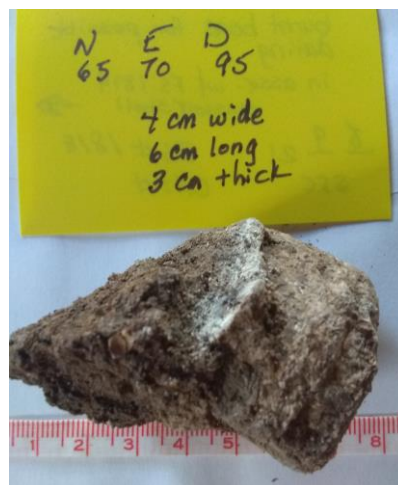
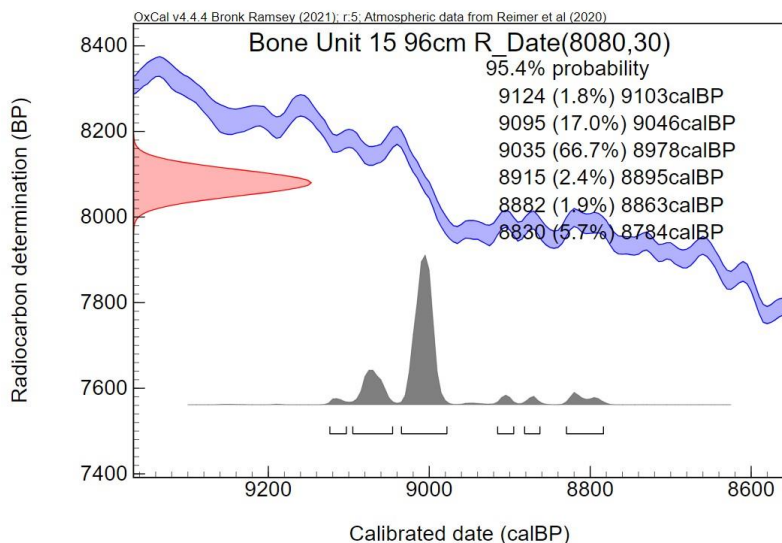
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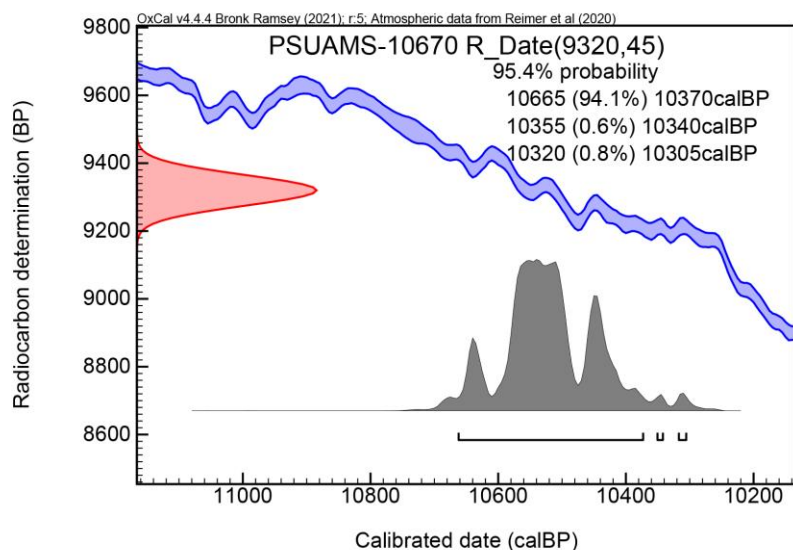


HCAA Research at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Continues

The addition of radiocarbon dating to other dating techniques, such as projectile point types, has allowed us to build a prospective timeline of the oldest human activity that we've yet excavated.



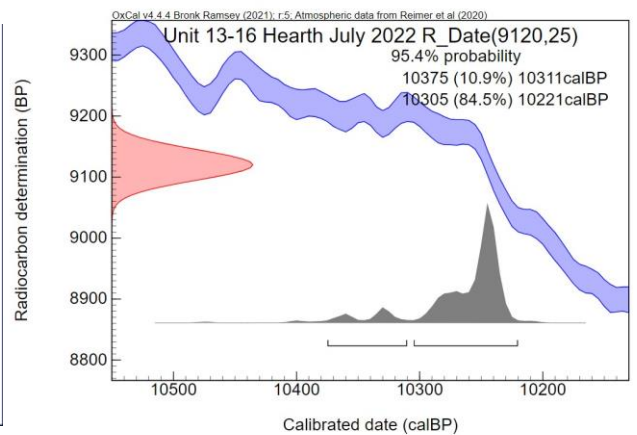
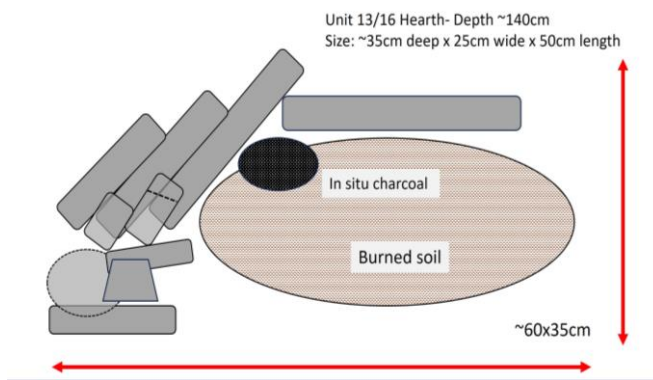
Unit 15: Deer-sized mammal bone fragment, Radiocarbon Date 9,000 years ago



Bison antiquus (extinct) bone fragment, Radiocarbon Date 10,400 years ago

HCAA Research at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Continues

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Recovering charcoal from rock hearth, Unit 13-16.
Radiocarbon dating is 10,250 years ago.



Another rock hearth with charcoal, Unit 15.
Radiocarbon dating is pending.



HCAA Research at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Continues

This year, we recovered several new types of projectile points that help us understand which groups of ancient foragers occasionally camped at CWR. The identification of these points with previous well-documented time periods, in addition to the radiocarbon dating, has allowed us to build a prospective timeline of the oldest human activity that we've yet excavated.



Early Archaic (L to R): 2 Bandy Points & 1 Martindale Point 6000-8000 years old



Late Paleoindian (L to R):
3 Angostura Points &
2 Golondrina Points
7,000-8,800 years ago



Paleoindian:
St. Mary's Hall Points
10,200 years ago



Mid to Late Paleoindian:
Unidentified Unfluted Lanceolate Points
Possibly contemporaneous with St.
Mary's Hall >10,00 years ago?

Getting the word out: Publishing and Presenting our Research and activities

In keeping with the highest principles of archeology, we have continuously published and presented HCAA activities and research to our membership, other avocational societies, and the general public. This year, through our Newsletter, our web site, our Facebook page, live presentations, and Zoom PowerPoint lectures, HCAA news has reached across the state.



Bunkhouse Archeological Site, Kerr County, Texas - Paul Unger

For the last three years members of the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) have been excavating a midden near Old Tunnel State Park in Kendall County in the Alamo Springs Ranch (ASR) subdivision. [HCAA Newsletter]



Paleoindian Period Earth Ovens and Beyond: Ongoing Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754), Kerr County, Texas

Presented at the Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting in San Marcos October 6-7, by Mike McBride



10,000 Years of Hill Country Archeology: HCAA Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Kerr County, Texas

Zoom presentation to the Houston Archeological Society November by Mike McBride



10,000 Years of Hill Country Archeology: HCAA Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Kerr County, Texas

General Meeting presentation HCAA November by Mike McBride

Lots more coming in 2024
HCAA Thanks You!

