



TCAS BENCHMARK

JANUARY 2012

Volume 26, Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Even though we were missing some of our members on December 17, our annual TCAS Christmas party at Paula's house was enjoyed by all. For those of you who could not attend, you missed a wonderful occasion for sharing good times with your TCAS family. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays with the rest of their friends and family. My wish for the

New Year of 2012 is that it will be a fantastic year for all of us!

As I start my second year as President of TCAS, I would like to ask you as a member to do something for me. Please take a minute and let me know either in person or by email, if there are changes (or not) you would like to see in TCAS in the coming year. The Board of Directors and I are well aware that everyone wants more fieldwork and we are working on planning more outings for this year. It is ok if your comments are negative, but if they are, you will also need to tell me a way to remedy the issue (complaining without a positive solution does no good). I also need to hear positive comments if you particularly like the way something is being done. This is your organization and the Board of Directors and I need to hear your voice.

It is time to **RENEW** your membership dues, and **UPDATE** your email address and phone number! Whether you receive your newsletter by email or snail mail, TCAS needs everyone's email address and phone number, so be sure to update these portions of your membership renewal. If we have to suddenly cancel or change a meeting or scheduled event due to winter weather or some other surprise, we need everyone's email address and phone number to quickly let you know. This does NOT / will NOT affect the way you receive your newsletter. We will only use this information as a fast and efficient way to notify you if we need to.

Remember, too, that it is also time to renew your state membership dues with the Texas Archeological Society!

Katrina Nuncio

Calendar of Activities

JANUARY

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**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

FEBRUARY

4-5

**TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY
- LITHICS: READING STONE
ARTIFACTS ~ UVALDE
(see article in December
BENCHMARK)**

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**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

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**19TH ANNUAL EAST TEXAS
ARCHEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE ~ TYLER
(see page 3)**

MARCH

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**TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 5)**

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**TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY
- CERAMICS: THE STORIES
FOUND IN POTTERY
~ COLLEGE STATION
(see page 3)**

26-
30

**SHUMLA'S PECOS EXPERIENCE:
ARCHAIC ART
AND ARCHEOLOGY OF THE
LOWER PECOS**

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JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Dr. Jeffery Hanson

"ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CONDITION ASSESSMENT: A TOOL FOR MANAGING AND PROTECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES."

We all know Dr. Hanson from his recounting of his work with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation studies of the Buffalo Soldiers at historic Fort Craig in New Mexico. Dr. Hanson's subject at our January monthly meeting will focus on the management and protection of cultural resources.

In Dr. Hanson's words, "I want to give this talk because we have devised a nice method for assessing a suite of risk factors to archaeological sites which singly or in combination, can damage site integrity. We can measure and quantify these risks and provide useful data for site stewards, land managers and private property owners concerned with site monitoring and taking appropriate steps to mitigate these risk factors."

Dr. Hanson received his PhD in anthropology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and taught in the sociology-anthropology department at the University of Texas-Arlington from 1986-2001.



More recently he has been an archaeologist for the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He was also recently a principal investigator for Statistical Research, Inc, a cultural resources management firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Following his retirement he has moved back to the DFW area.

Dues are Due



As we start the new year dues for your TCAS membership are once again due. Please make sure you complete the Membership Renewal Form on the last page of this newsletter and give it, along with your dues, to either Paula or Katrina.

Please, also, make sure that you include your email address on the form so that we can contact you if we

19TH ANNUAL EAST TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 11 ~ TYLER

The 19th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd., across Spur 248 from the University of Texas at Tyler. The hours are 9 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and admission is \$10 at the door. In addition to a slate of great speakers, there will be a hand's-on demonstration of "TAS-Method Flotation" by Leslie L. Bush, Ph.D., R.P.A, Macrobotanical Analysis. If you are interested, please bring 3 liter soil samples for processing. To present a paper, submit an abstract and a paper title to Dr. Timothy K. Perttula: tkp4747@aol.com. For more information on conference arrangements, contact Dr. Thomas Guderjan: guderjan@yahoo.com.

The ETAC was established to bring together people interested in the archeology of the area. This is an opportunity for professional archeologists, avocational archeologists, and members of the general public to visit with each other about their shared and common interest in the region's cultural heritage.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY

- CERAMICS: THE STORIES FOUND IN POTTERY

3-4 MARCH ~ COLLEGE STATION

The second TAS Academy of 2012 will be held at Texas A&M University in College Station on March 3rd and 4th, 2012. This academy will impart the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Participants will be informed through lectures and hands-on exercises, all provided by Dr. Harry Shafer and Marybeth Tomka.

The curriculum outline is as follows:

- Introduction
- Pottery technology
- Ceramic body
- Hands-on: examine paste examples
- Decoration
- Pottery demo (A) wheel, mold (B) coil, pinch
- Sherd analysis
- Sherd attributes: hands-on sort
- Building a chronology
- Historic ceramics
- Potsherds to people

For more information and registration visit: <http://txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2012/index.php>

Also, don't forget the first 2012 Academy: **LITHICS: READING STONE ARTIFACTS** to be held in Uvalde on February 4-5. More information on this academy is also available at the above address.

ARTIFACTS DISRUPT DIG FOR BOERNE'S WASTEWATER PLANT

By Linda Byrne, Contributing Writer

December 13, 2011

San Antonio Express-News

Boerne's new wastewater treatment plant, already an ultra-pricey budget item, just grew even more costly when artifacts believed to be several thousand years old were discovered during digging operations.

The Boerne City Council on Dec. 13 OK'd a contract with UTSA for \$38,656 to carry out archaeological investigations that are required by law.

That's in addition to almost \$30,000 the council approved for the initial archaeological excavation in November, pegged at \$30,000.

"This is one of those situations where we really don't have a choice," said Boerne Public Relations Coordinator Pam Bransford. "Work would be delayed if the contract is not awarded."

According to the city, the work is required by the Texas Historical Commission because of the age of artifacts that were discovered while the city was digging a new pipeline route.

The artifacts were found near the confluence of Menger and Cibolo creeks. According to UTSA experts, artifacts possibly 8,000 years old have been identified at the site.

"This component has potential to provide information of several aspects of archaeological research, including hunter-gatherer subsistence, mobility strategies practiced by nomadic groups, technological adaptations to changing prey species, and the use of rock-lined cooking features in food preparation," a UTSA document on the matter states.

"Because of these potential contributions to archaeological research and our knowledge of hunter-gatherer adaptations dating back to 8,000 years ago, the Center for Archaeological Research recommended that the deeper archaeological component is eligible to the National Register and should be formally listed as a State Archeological Landmark."

According to the UTSA document, the process the city is undertaking has been expedited because of the time constraints the city is facing in keeping the wastewater plant construction on schedule, and no further archaeological investigation is required.

"These mitigation efforts will occur in a very limited and specific portion of the site; they will serve to satisfy the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas, regardless of where else within the site limits additional archaeological remains may be found," said Steve A. Tomka, director of the Center for Archaeological Research at UTSA.

Earlier this year, the City Council approved a contract to build a new plant for \$31 million that will double the city's wastewater treatment capacity.

The wastewater treatment plant, being built on a 12.5-acre tract on Old San Antonio Road, has been stymied previously when bids came in higher than expected.

The City Council had to table the matter while the city's consulting engineers tweaked the project and worked with the low bidder to reduce the cost. Some features, such as an administration building, were eliminated and other cost-saving measures were implemented through a series of change orders earlier this year.

According to UTSA, there is a process that will be followed if human remains are discovered.

"We do not anticipate the discovery of any human remains," the university's document states.

"However, should such remains be discovered, CAR archaeologists will immediately stop work in that area and will notify the Kendall County clerk, the landowner, the sponsor, and the THC to initiate discussions on how to proceed," the document stated. "All handling of human remains will conform to the conditions of the State Health and Safety Code."

TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth.

The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot "C" on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00

HOME PHONE _____

FAMILY \$25.00

EMPLOYER _____

STUDENT \$10.00

(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

E-MAIL _____

CONTRIBUTING \$30.00+

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

CODE OF ETHICS (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES, OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA, OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

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