THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2023 TAS Field School at Nacogdoches

Mission Concepción, Ben Gallant and Caddo Round Houses

By Dr. Tamra Walter, Principal Investigator, and Tiffany Osburn, Chair, Field School

The Archeology

This year's field school will be held in Nacogdoches at Mission Nuestra Senora de la Purisima Concepción (41NA344) and related sites. The site of 41NA344 is the first location of Mission Concepción and was established in 1716. The mission operated at this location until 1730 when it was transferred to a site near Austin before its final move to San Antonio in 1731. Notably, Concepción is one of the oldest missions in Texas and served as the headquarters for three additional missions founded in the area. Missionary Fathers Felix Espinosa and Antonio Margil de Jesus accompanied the Domingo Ramon expedition that established Mission Concepción among the Hainai Caddo. In 1718, Governor Martin de Alarcon visited the site where he resided in a Caddo round house for several days. The following year, in 1719 the mission was briefly abandoned but was rededicated in 1721 by the Aguayo Expedition (see Page 4 for Mission Concepción Historical Marker). When the mission was first discovered in 2010 by Tom Middlebrook and Morris Jackson among others, the team noted that the artifacts found at the site reflect missionrelated activities and construction methods consistent with the 18th century (SFASU News Release 2010 -see Page 5).

Today, the site is located on private property in western Nacogdoches County but at the time of its founding it was situated within a Caddo village. Soldiers, missionaries, and dignitaries interacted with the Caddo at the mission during its brief history creating a mix of Caddo and Spanish material culture within its archaeological record. The discovery team found Spanish nails, a

pintle, parts of a chest lock, a metate leg, gun parts, lead shot, building hardware, metal knives, wine bottle glass, and glass beads along with large quantities of Caddo pottery. Based on the distribution of artifacts, Middlebrook and his team suggest that the mission compound included a church, storage area, and residential area. While some surface scraping was completed at the site, additional work is needed to verify the presence and location of mission structures. Large block excavations are proposed for the upcoming TAS field school to better understand the arrangement of mission buildings and associated features.

Approximately 300 meters to the north of the mission proper, the research team identified another site, 41NA338 or the Ben Gallant site. While largely associated with a 19th century occupation of the property, a magnetometer survey indicated the presence of a circular feature that pre-dated the 19th century. Subsequent testing of the feature exposed a center post hole and evidence of a Caddo round house. The house had no hearth with few artifacts. Middlebrook (personal communication 2022) conjectures that the house might have been used by Governor Alarcon when he visited the site in 1718 to re-supply the struggling missions. Additional excavations are needed to further explore this possibility. Block excavations in around the unexcavated portion of the round house are also planned for this summer's TAS field school.

To the south of 41NA338, is site 41NA346 where two structures were located along with forged nails, a hearth, arrow points, and a blue bead (see Page 5 for

(Continued on page 3)

The Texas Archeological Society promotes the study, preservation and awareness of Texas archeology.

The Society encourages scientific archeological exploration and research, the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites, and the interpretation and publication of the data attendant thereto.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY® ETHICS

- Members of TAS must abide by all terms and conditions of the TAS bylaws and all Federal and State antiquities laws or regulations.
- •TAS does not condone the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes.
- TAS does not condone the disregard of proper archeological field techniques or the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data.

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Newsletter Deadline Friday, May 19, 2023 – Summer Edition

TAS BOARD MEETINGS

April 23, 2023 - by Zoom June 10, 2023 - Nacogdoches, Field School August 27, 2023 - by Zoom October 6, 2023 - San Marcos, Annual Meeting



June 10-17, 2023 - Field School, Nacogdoches October 6-8, 2023 - Annual Meeting, San Marcos

A digital version of this newsletter can be found on the TAS website: http://www.txarch.org

2023 TAS Field School

photo). Middlebrook has speculated that these Caddo round houses might be related to Angelina, a Hasinai woman that served as a translator and diplomat on both the Ramon and Aguayo expeditions. Angelina and her two sons resided at Concepción and may have occupied one or both Caddo houses. Additional excavations within the houses and in the immediate area surrounding the structures will also be part of our investigations this coming summer.

All three areas targeted for investigation for our 2023 field season are in close proximity to one another with good shade cover in most areas. Deposits within the mission compound are shallow which will allow us to expose large sections of the site quickly. The goal of these horizontal excavations is to identify and delineate the remains of any mission structures or related features. Likewise, investigations at site 41NA338 and 41NA346 will also focus on defining structures and exploring the nature of associated cultural deposits. We anticipate recovering both European and Native artifacts from all three sites. Examining the mix of materials will aid our understanding of the level and types of interaction between these groups.

The Camping

This year, the TAS campground will be located at the Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center. The center is located on the west side of Nacogdoches at 3805 NW Stallings Drive and the field school camp will be located at the back of the property. In addition to areas suitable for tent camping, the facility offers 32 water and electrical hook-ups available for RVs, and these can be reserved through TAS. Both 30 and 50 amp spots are available for \$30/day. TAS will collect fees for these sites at Registration upon arrival. No dump station is available on the grounds, but flushing toilets are located in the Registration building. See the map on page 4 for the RV camping area and Registration building. Please email tasfieldschool@gmail.com to indicate your interest in reserving an RV spot. Be sure to include # days and 30 or 50 amp requirements.

Meals and evening programs will be held at Barn 3 and registration and t-shirt pick up will be located just across the Midway from Barn 3. In the same building as the registration booth there are separate men's and women's bathrooms available for use. Camping will be located in the back acreage beyond the Barn. There are plenty of locations that will offer shade and site selection will be first come, first served. Electrical outlets are

available throughout the expo center facility for battery charging and other necessities, but these will be shared between all campers.

Showers for all TAS participants will be located in the Civic Center's main bathroom facility near the front of the property (12p-7p). This wonderful facility offers 4 private showers each for men and women as well as an ADA compliant shower in each bathroom.

When you arrive Friday to set up your camp at the expo grounds or to check into your hotel, come to the registration area to sign in and receive your name tag, crew assignments, t-shirt, and other important and vital information. Potable water is available throughout the facility. Jack Pool, our camp boss will be stationed at camp and lodging in the RV area. There are numerous shade trees in the camping area, but as always, we encourage attendees to bring a shade shelter for use in camp or in the field.

The cooking trailer will be conveniently located near Registration and Barn 3. Registrants may prepare your own meals, or our cooks will be serving breakfast and supper all week for paying customers. See the registration form to sign up for meals. Ice will also be available for purchase near the registration area. Portable toilets will be scattered throughout the campground and adjacent to the excavation areas. A trash container will be provided at camp for your use, so bag your trash and use the dumpsters.

Please see the <u>General Info and Camp</u> page for what to expect in camp, camp rules, suggested camp equipment and a general daily schedule. The camp boss or designee will remain in camp during the day to provide security.

2023 Field School Activities

The youth group is sure to have a wonderful time this year participating in this important archeological work. They will be located in a particularly interesting area near the rest of the adult excavation blocks. Other activities include evening lectures, workshops, flintknapping demonstrations, the Archeolympics competition, and of course the Wally margarita party with live music. Also, teachers receive CPE credit hours for most Field School activities including afternoon and evening programs (please indicate your interest on the registration form on Page 7).

(Continued on page 4)

2023 TAS Field School



On Thursday evening of field school, the TAS will host an artifact identification night and public presentation for the local community. Professional and avocational archeologists will be available to provide artifact type identifications and other information about private collections. We encourage everyone to come and talk with the archeologists about their artifacts and the unique history of the Nacogdoches area!

All of this information and more can be found on the <u>2023 Information</u> page for Field School as well as the <u>General and Camp Information page</u>. More information about Excavation, Survey, and Lab assignments and

what to bring can be found <u>here</u>. If you wish to pay by credit card, online registration is <u>available now</u>.

Please visit the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau website at <u>visitnacogdoches.org</u> for links containing a wealth of information about accommodations, dining, and "things to do" locally.

In sum, the 2023 TAS field school is shaping up to be another great field season. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there and are excited to be working at such a fantastic site. See you in June!

2023 Field School Sponsors



Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation

Thanks to each of these organizations for their generous support of the Texas Archeological Society.



(Continued on page 5)

2023 TAS Field School

Carved in Stone: Centennial Marker from 1936



Concepción Centennial Marker Erected by the State of Texas in 1936

Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Osburn

Upon discovery of the location of Mission Concepción, local Stewards led the effort to have the Centennial Marker moved to the location of the site. Morris Jackson and Tom Middlebrook were particularly involved in that effort.



Published by the Public Affairs Department of Stephen F. Austin State University on November 2, 2010

Local archaeologists discover original location of 18th-century mission

After an intensive five-year search, a team of Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) members and professional archeologists have announced the discovery of the original location of Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de los Hainais, later, "de los Tejas," in western Nacogdoches County.



The mission is the oldest yet discovered from 18th-century Spanish Texas, predating the missions and presidio in San Antonio. Additionally, Mission Concepción is the earliest location yet discovered that bears the name "Tejas".

The locality gives a new understanding of the route Spanish missionaries and soldiers took as they ventured into East Texas because it lies between the two previously known routes of El Camino Real de los Tejas. Artifacts from the site are consistent with early 18th-century structures and mission activities. The site is well protected on private land and will be the subject of additional research.

The mission was established in July 1716 by the Domingo Ramón Expedition that was accompanied by the Querétaran Franciscan Father Felix Espinosa and the Zacatecan Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús. The Concepción mission served as the headquarters of the original three College of Querétaro missions in East Texas. It was placed at the village of the principal chief of the Hainai, the lead tribe of the Hasinai Caddo, often known as the "Tejas".

In 1718, Governor Martín de Alarcón dedicated the village that developed around the mission as "Concepción de Agreda" in honor of María de Jesús de Agreda, the "Lady in Blue." Although all of the East Texas missions were briefly abandoned in 1719 due to concern about a French threat, Mission Purísima Concepción was rededicated by the massive Aguayo Expedition in 1721. The newly discovered site fits the Spanish chroniclers' description of being located on a "mesa" about "a half league" east of the Angelina River, near springs flowing to a small marsh.

Mission Concepción was moved briefly to the Austin area around 1730 and finally reestablished in San Antonio in 1731 as Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña where it is now an important part of the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.

The discovery team was led by Nacogdoches physicians and TASN members Tom Middle-brook and Morris Jackson; TASN member Mark Walters; archeologist Rodney Bo Nelson; historic archeologist Dr. George Avery of Stephen F. Austin State University; archeologist Jeff Williams, a GIS authority on El Camino Real also from SFA; historian Dr. Matt Babcock of the University of North Texas at Dallas; and Dr. Chester P. Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates in Austin.

https://www.sfasu.edu/4906.asp

By Public Affairs

Side: Blue buttons photo courtesy of Tom Middlebrook

2023 TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL REGISTRATION **NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS, JUNE 10-17**

\$10 LATE FEE PER REGISTRANT IF POSTMARKED AFTER MAY 26 MAILED REGISTRATION DUE ON OR BEFORE MAY 26

DO NOT MAIL AFTER JUNE 2. FEE REFUND DEADLINE: CANCELLATION IF POSTMARKED BY MAY 26. REGISTER ONLINE at www.txarch.org to pay by Credit Card

- Complete all applicable sections on both sides of the form PLEASE PRINT AND USE INK.
- TAS MEMBERSHIP is required for Field School attendance. Join online at www.txarch.org or send membership forms and dues to TAS.»»»
- Anyone UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE unaccompanied by parent or guardian must be a TAS member and have an adult TAS sponsor. The SPONSOR AGREEMENT on the reverse side must be COMPLETED, NOTARIZED, and INCLUDED with this form.

601 University Drive San Marcos, Texas 78666-4684 Texas Archeological Society c/o Dept. of Anthropology Texas State University Office Phone: 512-245-3961

Cell Phone () MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	Home Phone ()	State 2.1p 1-Shirt Qty. x \$20 \$ (T-shirts must be reserved by May 26) 3-Mail Address 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 7 7 8 7 8 7 9 7 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	Meals Total \$	Street Late Registration (+\$10/person) \$ (Add if you register after May 26)	4. YOUR MAILING ADDRESS: 5. SUBTOTAL FEES: IMPORTANT – SEE REGISTRATION INFORMATION	Registration Total S Meals Total S T-Shirt Quantity	ם ם ם ם ם ם				\$ B B B B B B B B S	M	\$ B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	S S	\$ B B B B B B B B S S	Name(s) to appear on badge(s) Fee S S M T W T F S # Fee Total First Last Specify Preference Motel Kids-L	th Age I	\$80 Places circle which mosts you are naving for FIELD some	Adult	AST DINNER ACTIVAL Archeological ASSIGN TO: Youth FH-Historic 7-13 Camp	1. FEES (MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE – See No. 5 below) 2. FIELD WORK 3. T's
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ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT

(Required for registration)

Individually and on behalf of any family members and sponsored minors attending the TAS Field School with me, I hereby pledge and agree:

- To pay for all meals I/we eat that are provided by TAS.
- To respect the rights of other participants, keep the camping area clean, and avoid disturbing other campers.
- To abide by the rules and codes of conduct of the TAS Field School, to obey the instructions of directors and other officials of the Field school, and
 to perform such archeological work and camp chores as may be assigned to me/us by Field School Directors and officials.
- To care for and turn in all equipment, records, and supplies that do not belong to me/us; to collect and excavate archeological materials only when and where instructed by Field School officials; to properly record and turn in all artifacts and to keep records and controls in all archeological work.
- To abide by the terms and conditions of the Texas Antiquities Statutes.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ALL ITEM	I HA	AVE READ	THE ABOVE	AND AGREE	TO	ALL	ITEMS
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Signed		Date
	LEGAL RELEAS	SE
	(Required for registrati	on)
of my family while attending the destroy public or private property I approve the use by TAS and of	20TAS Field School. I/We will respect the	ny and all liability for the safety and well being of me or members rights and property of landowners and will not damage or of me or members of my family taken by the official Field Schoo ublicity and promotional projects.
I HAVE READ THE ABOVE A	AND AGREE TO ALL ITEMS: Signer	d
Date	Printe	d name
	AIDE TO YOUTH PR	
	(For parents or sponsors of Youth G	oup participants)
Parents or guardians are enco	ouraged to sign up to work with the youth	group. Parents or guardians can sign up for a
single day, but the youth group	o supervisors encourage participation fo	r the duration of your field school.
	SPONSOR AGREE	MENT
(Requir	ed for persons under 18 years of age unacco	
	must be completed, notarized, and included	d with registration form)
TO BE COMPLETED BY PAR	RENT OR GUARDIAN:	
		, a minor, residing at
		hereby release the Texas Archeological Society
		nor while he/she is attending the 20 TAS Field School. I
hereby appoint	adult sponsor for this mind	or, and the sponsor has agreed to assume this responsibility.
		Subscribed and sworn before me this day of
	()	
Parent or Guardian	Phone	Notary Public In and For the State of
TO BE COMPLETED BY SPO	DNSOR:	
l,	, having been appointed adult sponsor	of, a minor, by his/her
		pointment and further agree to assume the responsibility of said
minor at the 20 TAS Field Scho	ol.	
	()	Subscribed and sworn before me thisday of,20
Sponsor	Phone	Notary Public In and For the State of

The 94rd TAS Annual Meeting: San Marcos

By Carolyn Spock and Becky Shelton, 2023 TAS AM Program Co-chairs

Your Travis County Archeological Society (TvCAS) hosts have arranged for the 94th TAS Annual Meeting, October 6–8, 2023, to be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel Conference Center, the site of the 2014 TAS Annual Meeting. As we discovered in 2014, when you are not involved in Annual Meeting activities, the Embassy Suites offer a number of amenities: a made-to-order breakfast, a complimentary evening reception, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, spa, on-site restaurant, business center, and more. Its facilities are handicapped accessible and comply with ADA guidelines.

Nick Morgan, President of TvCAS, is Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee this year. The Program/

Papers Co-Chairs are Becky Shelton and Carolyn Spock; Marybeth Tomka is Registrar, Robin Matthews is Treasurer, Christin Embree is overseeing Publicity, Vicky Roberts is our Student Liaison, and Pat Mercado-Allinger is in charge of the Silent Auction, with Jim Schmidt assisting her. Our guest speakers are Doug Boyd, Senior Archeologist at Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, now Stantec, for the Friday Public Forum and Dr. Ashley Lemke, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at UT Arlington, for the Saturday evening Banquet.

Stay tuned for more Annual Meeting information in upcoming TAS newsletters and on the TAS website, www.txarch.org.



Doug Boyd, Friday Public Forum Speaker

Photo courtesy of James & Susan Everett

Photo of Dr. Lemke provided by Dr. Lemke.

Doug Boyd was raised in the small town of Tulia in the Texas Panhandle. He received a BA degree in General Studies-Archeology from West Texas State University in 1983 and an MA degree in Anthropology from Texas A&M University in 1986. While his career has taken him all across Texas and beyond, the prehistory of the Texas Panhandle remains his passion. He has published more than 150 CRM reports and articles for books, professional journals, and popular magazines.

One of his more recent books is a collaboration with John Erickson, <u>Porch Talk</u>: A Conversation About Archaeology in the Texas Panhandle. He received the TAS Fellow award in 2022 in recognition of the 20 plus years he has served as the Youth Program Director at Field School.

Dr. Ashley Lemke, Banquet Speaker

Dr. Ashley Lemke is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas in Arlington and former Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (www.acuaonline.org). She is a leading researcher on



the archaeology of hunter-gatherers. She has worked extensively on both terrestrial and underwater archaeological projects from the Lower Paleolithic in Europe to 19th-century Nunamiut archaeological sites in the Arctic. She is an expert on submerged ancient sites in the Americas and has researched such sites in the Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Ocean. She led projects on terrestrial sites in Texas and has worked at sites across North America and Europe, including Romania, Germany, and Spain.

Dr. Lemke received a PHD in Anthropology in 2016, and an MA in Anthropology in 2010, from the University of Michigan. She graduated from the University of Texas in 2008 with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Classical Civilization. One of her more recent publications is The Built Environment of Hunter-Gatherers and Its Impact on Mobility, Property, Leadership, and Labor, published by Texas A&M University Press in 2022.

First Call for Papers, Symposia, and Posters

By Carolyn Spock and Becky Shelton, 2023 TAS AM Program Co-chairs

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society, October 6–8, 2023, at the Embassy Suites San Marcos, Hotel, Spa, and Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional archeologist members on any topic of archeological interest. According to current TAS policy, all presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. The Registrar and Program Committee will be checking on this.

Papers will be allotted 15 minutes, a limit that will be strictly enforced. Because simultaneous sessions will be held, the program schedule will be adhered to so that TAS members can move from room to room to catch talks of interest. The final deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is August 18, 2023.

Symposia may be organized around any topic, area, major project, and/or time period. Each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of August 4, 2023. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length, so long as this is stated in the symposium abstracts.

Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and posters can reach a larger audience than oral papers. Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers.

In order to appear in the program, **poster abstracts must be received by August 18, 2023**; late poster entries may be accommodated after consultation with the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Other presentation formats such as discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops may be held on approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Submit all abstracts as Word files attached to email (am-papers@txarch.org preferred), or by regular mail on CD or flash drive or in typed form. For email attachments or CD/flash drive submissions, include a text (.txt) file in addition to the word processor file; text files may be created by using the Save As command and selecting the text file type. Meeting rooms will be equipped with data projectors and laptop computers; additional audiovisual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Abstracts must include the following information:

Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one)

Equipment requested for the presentation

Title

Author(s) and Affiliation(s)

Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum)

If sending a hard copy:

Becky Shelton

Texas Historical Commission

P.O. Box 12276

Austin, TX 78711-2276

Telephone: 512-463-6043

San Marcos! Plan now to join us in this beautiful area of Texas!

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2023 Rock Art Academy in El Paso, Hueco Tanks

By Ken Lawrence

On February 25–26th, the **2023 TAS Rock Art Academy** was held at the **El Paso Museum of Archaeology** and Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site in El Paso, Texas. The academy was conducted in partnership with the El Paso Archaeological Society (EPAS), the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This academy introduced participants to the rock art and archeology of west Texas and southern New Mexico and was designed to inform participants on how the proper recording of rock art can illuminate both how a site was prehistorically used by people and how investigators use this information to interpret how past and present communities engaged with the world around them.

The instructors led by Myles Miller, included Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Loendorf, Margaret (Marglyph) Berrier, and Mark Willis all provided a comprehensive back-



Instructor Myles Miller outlining the goals of the Rock Art Academy. Photo courtesy of Mark Willis

ground of the rich and complex styles of the regional rock art and the variety of rock art analyses.

The academy also provided instruction and overviews of the various and quickly developing technologies (e.g., DStretch, portable x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy [pXRF], 3D scanning, and drone photography) that have greatly enhanced the identification, documentation, and interpretation of rock art. The instructors kept the academy informative and interesting with a mixture of classroom lectures as well as hands on demonstrations.

With the assistance of the TPWD, the academy also included a field day at **Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site** to visit rock art sites and see firsthand the variety of styles and settings where these panels exist. The two-day academy had 48 participants representing various ages and locations from all over the state. A good time was had by all and everyone left with a better appreciation of this region and its complex prehistory.



Instructor Dr. Larry Loendorf discussing rock art recording techniques *Photo courtesy of J. Roberts*



Instructor Margaret (Marglyph) Berrier discussing rock art illustration techniques.

Photo courtesy of Ken Lawrence



Instructor Mark Willis provides instruction of various 3D recording techniques. Photo courtesy of Ken Lawrence

(Continued on page 12)

2023 Rock Art Academy: Hueco Tanks

(Continued from Page 11)



TAS Scholarship winners Vicky Roberts (I) and Emmy Avila (r) during Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site field trip. Photo courtesy of Ken Lawrence



Instructor Mark Willis discussing rock art on field trip.

Photo courtesy of J. Roberts





Rock art images before (left) and after (right) DStretch technology applied.

Photos courtesy of J. Roberts.



The TAS Academy Committee and the instructors would like to gratefully thank EPAS President **Peter Condon**, the **El Paso Museum of Archaeology staff** led by **Sebastian Ribas-Normand**, and our **TPWD** hosts and guides **Tim Roberts** and **Cassie Cox** for assisting with the academy to help provide a successful, fun filled, informative, and safe academy.

2023 Archeology 101 Academy

By Steve Lowe

The Archeology 101 Academy was held on March 24 – 26 in Goldthwaite. The Academy was done in partnership with the Goldthwaite Legacy Plaza, the North Texas Archeological Society, and the landowner, Del Barnett. Friday evening started off with an introduction of the Academy personnel and then went straight into an Introduction to Archeology (What is Archeology?) presented by Dr. Jon Lohse.







Lecturers (L to R), Dr. Jon Lohse, Chris Meis, Jimmy Barrera Photos courtesy of Callan Clark

This was followed closely by a discussion, led by Ken Lawrence, Chris Meis, and Jimmy Barrera, of common tools, equipment, and field forms used to perform archeology in Texas. Saturday's class included both lecture and hands-on exercises. Topics included: archeological Information (artifacts and their attributes, features and data); recognizing and documenting sites, using TexSite, recording processes, testing and data recovery; interpreting data, reporting archeological results; and the roles of regional societies and the avocational archeologist. Lecture was again led by Dr. Lohse, but included important portions from the entire instructor team. Interactive participation led to lively and informative discussions between the class and instructors.

Interspersed with the lecture, several hands-on activities were conducted. Class participants were able to learn the basics of sorting artifacts, learning Pace Count and making a field sketch map, and how to layout an excavation unit.



Hands-On Artifact Sorting Exercise



Identifying Pace Count Exercise led by Ken Lawrence

Above photos at left and right courtesy of Callan Clark

Continued on Page 14

2023 Archeology 101 Academy





Feature Mapping Exercise with Ken Lawrence

Unit Layout Exercise with Chris Meis

Above photos at left and right courtesy of Callan Clark

Sunday morning started bright but briskly cool at the Clovis Field Site in Mills County on property owned by Del Barnett. The class was assigned to approximately 4-person crews and each crew was led by an experienced Crew Chief. Over the next several hours, crews were able to ensure their units were laid-out correctly, begin their excavation, and proceed to excavate and record their progress, artifacts, and features. Nine 1M x 1M units were excavated.



Getting Started on a Unit



Further Unit Excavation

Above photos at left and right courtesy of Ken Lawrence



Determining Soil Color using a Munsell Soil Color Chart



Measuring the Unit Level

Above photos at left and right courtesy of Callan Clark

(Continued on Page 15)

2023 Archeology 101 Academy

This extensive hands-on exercise provided the class participants with invaluable experience into what an archeological excavation looked like and felt like. Many lithics were collected and recorded during the morning, as well as a few rock features; all of which added to the learning experience. By noon, the cool day had turned into a perfect Central Texas spring day and the Excavation phase of the Academy ended with a delightful BBQ lunch and much friendly conversation under the shade of a large Cedar Elm tree.



2023 Archeology 101 Class, Clovis Field Site, Goldthwaite, Texas

Photo courtesy of Ken Lawrence

Course evaluations were generally very positive about the experience with great ideas for future academies and suggestions to help the Academy Committee continue to improve. The Academy course provided class participants a solid foundation of knowledge for the basics of archeology, and of archeology in Texas more specifically. Of special note, the Academy Committee would like to recognize the following TAS and NTAS Scholarship Recipients: Zanitra Wells (TAS), Ryann Ramirez (TAS), Aly Foreman (NTAS), and John Zumwalt (NTAS).



TAS Scholarship Recipients

Zanitra Wells and Ryann



NTAS Scholarship Recipients
Aly Foreman and John Zumwalt

Above photos at left and right courtesy of Callan Clark

2023 TAS Archeology 101 Academy Personnel

<u>Instructors</u>: Dr. Jon Lohse (lead instructor), Jimmy Barrera, and Chris Meis

<u>Co-Principal Investigators</u>: Jimmy Barrera and Chris Meis

Barnett Ranch Landowner: Del Barnett

<u>Host Associations</u>: Co-host Legacy Plaza, consisting of the Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center and the Goldthwaite Welcome Center; along with co-host the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS)

Local Arrangements Committee: Susan Reynolds, Savannah Early, and Del Barnett (Legacy Plaza); Chris Meis, Steve Lowe, and Jimmy Barrera (NTAS) Crew Chiefs: Royce Baker, Phillip Darce, Gen Freix, Kathleen Hughes, Bryan Jameson, Carol Macaulay-Jameson, Becky Shelton, Art Tawater, Buddy Whitley TAS Academy Committee: Jimmy Barrera (Chair), Steve Lowe, Ken Lawrence (Site Photographer), Debbie Eller (Merchandise and Site Secretary), Callan Clark (Academy Photographer), and David Yelacic.

Note from NTAS

By Jimmy Barrera, immediatepastpresident@ntxas.org

The North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) has been fortunate to have grown substantially over the past two years in membership enrollment, activities, and technical expertise. This includes rapid and significant membership growth through the Covid-19 pandemic. Many have asked "How did you do that?" or hypothesized " It's Zoom". This note is in part to help respond to this question and more importantly an offer of assistance from NTAS to fellow regional archeological societies, individuals, and other organizations in Texas and elsewhere.

Rapid NTAS growth began around the fall of 2021. This was after NTAS had been using Zoom for over one year. Zoom, and the use of this virtual meeting platform, is certainly not the only reason for the rapid membership growth of this regional society. The membership growth directly correlates with a talented young leader, Ashley Green – NTAS Internet Chair, stepping into the role of managing the website and all social media accounts for NTAS during the fall of 2021. The social media posts began to be regular, prior to events (announcing), in professional format, easy to follow, and maybe most importantly presented with the enthusiasm and talent of a young leader who is well-versed in social media. Membership growth began to include many new young members, members from across Texas, members in up to six other states, and more diversity across membership. Around this time NTAS also increased the archeological event opportunities offered to members and institutional partners. These activities included site recordings in multiple counties, site excavations, lab workshops, and site tours with institutional partners, combined with numerous outreach engagements like invitations to speak at partner institutions, and archeology booths at numerous public events. The society growth was aided by professional and regular use of social media, diverse and frequent events for NTAS membership and partners, and very active leadership from the NTAS Executive Committee. By late 2021 NTAS had become the largest regional archeological society in the state by membership number. And by the end of 2022 NTAS had well over 300 members, which was nearly double the membership numbers from just two years prior.

The NTAS Executive Committee felt this was an important note for the TAS newsletter because NTAS wants to offer help to other regional societies, individuals, and organizations. NTAS is well versed in teaching how to use Zoom for 100% virtual meetings, instructing the setup of hybrid (in-person and virtual) meetings which are more complicated, membership notification about dues renewal through a variety of outlets, use of social media (effectively), creating diverse events (field, lab, booths, speaking, etc.), various administrative matters for organizations, publications, and much more. NTAS has partnered and continues to partner with organizations and individuals across Texas and beyond. Please consider this message as an invitation to contact NTAS with questions or to schedule a meeting to discuss how we might help your organization grow member numbers, manage certain aspects of your organization, or address any other topics of interest to you. NTAS contact information is below and we look forward to assisting you:

North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) https://ntxas.org/
P.O. Box 24679, Fort Worth, Texas 76124
817.381.8117 (please leave voicemail); info@ntxas.org

NTAS Facebook

NTAS Instagram

NTAS YouTube Channel

...BUT I KNOW THESE POINTS ARE DIFFERENT

By Robert Z. Selden, Jr. Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University; Department of Biology, Stephen F. Austin State University; Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin; and Cultural Heritage Department, Jean Monnet University (<u>zselden@sfasu.edu</u>, corresponding author)

In the summer of 2020, I—like some of you—was restless and actively searching for something to take my mind and focus away from the pandemic. I had been collecting data for a series of papers related to Gary dart points, and after spending a considerable amount of time with the collections to generate images, measurements, and descriptions, I ran the numbers.

The results of the analysis that compared the assemblages of Gary points from the Miller and Yarbrough sites demonstrated that these projectiles do not differ. This left me both surprised and a bit flummoxed (Figure 1, page 19). These collections comprise the basis of several Gary type-varieties still in use today, and while Johnson (1962) perceived more differences among these points than I do, he was definitely onto something.

I began using machine learning (ML) in my work in 2014, primarily building ecological niche models for the US Forest Service and National Park Service, but—not being keen to rehash the Ford/Spaulding debates—had not been particularly interested in using ML as a means of classifying artifacts. However, the distinction in classification that I was chasing with the Gary points occurred between sites, and not types, so I made a run of it.

The particular ML routine that interested me was a classification tree, which is available in the *rpart* package in R (R Core Development Team 2023). One of the benefits of classification trees is that they can be trained, then tested by holding back a certain percentage of the data from the training sample, and the output is explicit. In other words, they produce an optimized decision-based criteria (decision tree) explained by Boolean logic (Figure 2, page 20).

The classification tree was trained to discriminate between Gary dart points in the Miller and Yarbrough assemblages using 70% of the points, and was subsequently tested with the remaining 30% of the points, achieving an accuracy level of 86%. So even though the Gary points do not differ in morphology between the Miller and Yarbrough sites, differences in maximum stem width and thickness provide a means of accurately discriminating between the two assemblages where nearly 9 out of every 10 points could be sorted correctly. Moreover, it identified those morphological features driving the pattern, which—in this case—appear suggestive of local differences/preferences related to hafting.

I write this not to advocate for any particular method or analytical approach, but because I know that I am not the only researcher working in Texas archaeology that has encountered this particular gut feeling; one where you just *know* that something is there, but where the solution is not easily found/seen. What I hope that you garner from this missive is both the encouragement not to give up, and the motivation to keep prodding and revisiting those many old ideas that are too often left parked on our oh-so-dusty mental bookshelves.

(Continued on page 18)

I KNOW THESE POINTS ARE DIFFERENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks go to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin for the loan of the Gary dart points from the Miller and Yarbrough sites during the COVID pandemic, and to our many peers for their comments and constructive criticisms along the way. This series of Gary dart point analyses uses projectiles from collections and museums across the American Southeast, and is focused on those sites where the 40+ Gary type-varieties were initially defined.

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Continued on page 19

I KNOW THESE POINTS ARE DIFFERENT

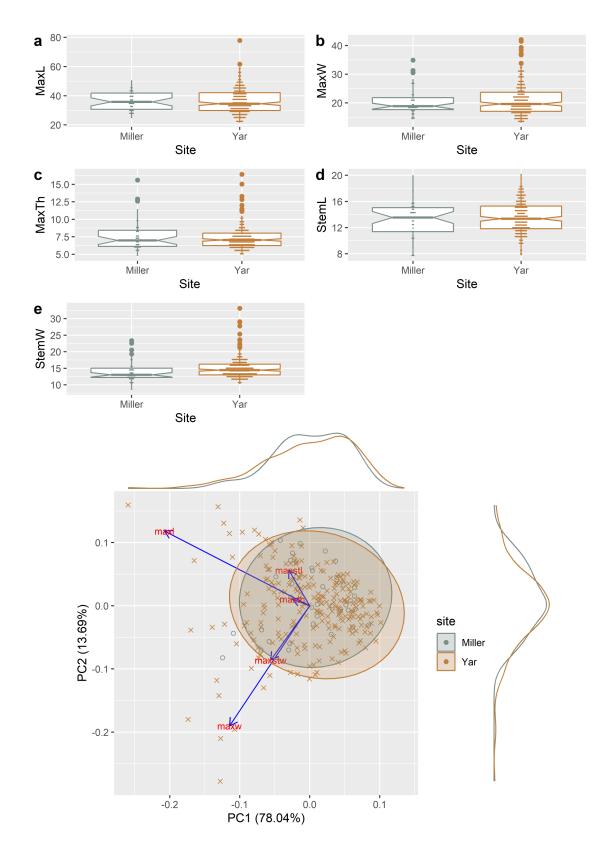


FIGURE 1. Boxplots for maximum length, width, thickness, stem width, and stem length, and PCA.

(Continued on page 20)

I KNOW THESE POINTS ARE DIFFERENT

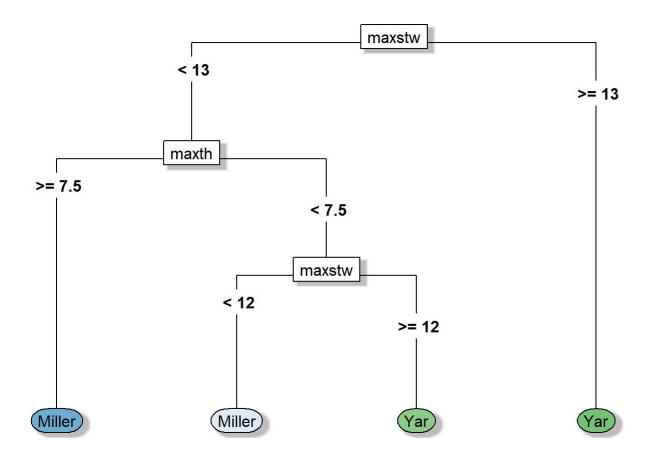


FIGURE 2. Classification tree for Gary dart points from Miller and Yarbrough.

Along the Border

By Mark L. Howe, MA Cultural Resources Specialist International Boundary and Water Commission – U.S. Section

Borderland studies and situations along the Rio Grande and beyond seem to be in the news media almost every day. Lately, the U.S-Mexico border in Texas has seen large amounts of archeological work being completed by state, contractor, and federal archeologists. In the last year many projects have been going on either up north in El Paso or down near Brownsville pertaining to International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) cultural resources. In April 2022 and again in late January 2023, I was conducting an archeological survey at Falcon Reservoir and Dam Project near Zapata, located south of Laredo, as part of the IBWC Falcon Grazing Leases Environmental Assessment (EA) for impacts of grazing on the cultural resources of the area. In April, we confirmed that the lake levels have been very low due to drought. Fortunately, not many of the problems in the past have resurfaced with sites exposure, as in the Cemeteries of old Lopeño and Falcón that were not moved and reinterred in the 1950s when the lake was established. However, we did manage to see what drought conditions are doing to the reservoir on archeological sites. In 2012, compared to 2023, the lake has lowered considerably by 20 feet or more and that previously recorded sites were now overgrown by swaths of vegetation making visual inspection inaccessible (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 2: Structure 1 in Tepezan Rancho site (41ZP87). Facing south with Mexico on far right and International Boundary Marker in river on right. This is usually underwater but now exposed. The heavy mesquite now covering the area is seen to the left and almost to water's edge.

(Continued on page 22)

Along the Border: Archeological site comparisons

The area in Figure 1 is now dry land to the west for about 0.20 mile to the river and lake elevation is down about 10' or more in this area. Figure 2 is one of the exposed locations we wanted to examine due to low lake levels and for any vandalism. Fortunately, no vandalism or looting of sites in our survey was noticed, but IBWC will continue to monitor as Falcon Lake is a fishing destination in southwest Texas. Along this area we found evidence of the old Ranchos / Ranches as seen in the exposed structures of 41ZP87, the old Tepezan Rancho. Later in the week at Zapata during our EA Scoping meeting for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), I was able to learn of several civil war battles that occurred near some of the Ranchos in this area. The descendants of families who once inhabited these Ranchos told of the battles and how they would like this documented. Future work with the local families at their historic ranchos that are now exposed, will hopefully document some of these sites in more detail. The Zapata County Historical Commission will also be involved to write an historical narrative for Texas Historical Markers to put along Highway 83 that will document these sites that are now submerged by Falcon Lake. More information can be found on these battles for Zapata County in the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail (https://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail/civil-war-trail/zapata-county/index.htm).

In the El Paso region, far to the Northwest and at the proximity of New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, we have been working on saving a part of Smeltertown (41EP7316). The original Smelter Arroyo and Levee Bridge wood planking has been falling apart (Figures 3 and 4). As this bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the IBWC will replace this wood as "in-kind" replacement before a vehicle falls through it, only a few structures of Smeltertown proper and the ASARCO smelter mill to the east remain.



From the Texas Historical Commission:

Smeltertown: A Community Lost to Time

Figure 3: Looking north towards historic Railroad bridges in El Paso. The Smelter Arroyo Bridge is still standing after almost 85 years.

(Continued from page 21)

Figure 4: The Smelter Arroyo Bridge is seen in the top center right after completion in 1938. Notice old suspension bridge to the far left top, this was removed in 1938 but was central as a conduit for U.S. troops across the Rio Grande who were monitoring the border during the Mexican Revolution in the 1910's.



Figure 4

(Continued on page 23)

Along the Border: Falcon Reservoir

Down near Brownsville, we are looking at identifying the old *Banco* markers that help to delineate the international boundary when the river and border "moved" after flooding events. These are similar to the ones discussed in the Fall 2020 newsletter up near Presidio. However, recently found negatives show some interesting things about the IBC (the pre-IBWC) from the early 1900s as shown in Figures 5 and 6. By examining these pictures, you can see a snapshot of history from over 100 years ago and if down in this area you might still find these along a road or in a farm field.



Figure 5: Longoreño Banco after installation, 1909. Notice cameraman on the right taking picture, he might be from the Mexican Section and the U.S. Section took this picture. It would be interesting to find the other picture in the future.

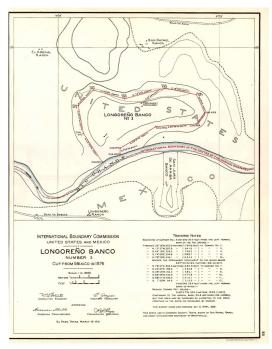


Figure 6: Map of Longoreño Banco in 1910 map.

In all, the IBWC is conducting archeological surveys at Falcon Reservoir and under our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Texas A&M International University in Laredo, are hoping to conduct archeological field schools in the future. We are planning in the coming months to explore a Spanish Colonial site we found a few years ago. IBWC is working with TxDOT on many changes in the lower Rio Grande Valley for new bridges across our levees and the border that continue to be a priority and preservation of our Cultural Resources.

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Atlas

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Texas Archeological Society 1928-2028

By Paula Vastine, TAS Historian

The Texas Archeology Society began quietly in the office of Dr. Cyrus Ray. Dr. Ray was an Osteopathic Physician practicing in Abilene TX at that time and he gathered several people, specifically Hubert Cooper, Frank Grimes, O.K. Hobbs, Otto Watts, C.N. Ray, E.B. Sayles, E.W. Wilson, W.C. Holden and Julius Olsen, in his office in October 2, 1928 to found a society dedicated to the archeology evidenced in the area in nearby Abilene, TX. The original name for the Society was the West Texas Archeological Society and regular meetings would be held on the first Tuesday of each month. The new society would cover the area also covered by the West Texas Historical Association. A temporary Chairman, Dr. C.N. Ray and a temporary secretary, E.B. Sayles, were named. Messrs Sayles, as well as Wilson and Holden, were appointed by the chair to draw up a Constitution and By-Laws to be submitted at the next meeting. Messrs. Olsen, Holden, and Grimes were named as members of a Publication Committee. The first Tuesday of November, being election night, it was voted that the next regular meeting of the Society would be November 5th, when a permanent organization would be made.

However, in their initial excitement, the new temporary Board could not wait and called a meeting on October 5, 1928, to further organize the "WTA & PS". We believe that the initials stand for West Texas Archeological and Paleontology Society. The Committee on By-Laws and the Constitution reported and the amended Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The temporary Board voted that a permanent organization would be organized but that the Charter would be held open until such time as invitations could be sent to likely interested members in other sections of the State. Those present then elected Dr. Ray as President and E.B Sayles as permanent Secretary. Dr. Julius Olsen was elected Vice President and H.G. Payne and

W.C. Holden members of the executive committee.

The new President, Dr. Ray, proceeded to permanently appoint Messrs. Grimes, Olsen, and Holden as the Publications Committee and a Membership Committee composed of Payne, Glass, and Watts was named by the Chair.

At the regular meeting on November 5th, the membership committee reported a membership of 35. Since the last meeting, 75 letters were sent to teachers, to instructors listed in catalogs of Colleges and Universities in the western portion of the state, to collectors and others with an interest in the Society. Only 2 people responded. Personal letters yielded 14. All were urged to keep trying. The Publications Committee still had not met, lacking items to publish.

At this point the President decided to create an Anthropological division with Dr. Holden as Chair, a Historical division led by Dr. Richardson and a Paleontological division led by Dr. Olsen. The division heads would constitute the program committee and would outline the work for the year of the Society. Each head was asked to prepare an introductory paper on their respective divisions to be presented to the membership.

President Ray willingly began the programs with a paper on local artifacts at the December meeting. This could have arguably been the first general meeting. Each division leader was to present in each of the following meetings. Dr. Ray requested that a bibliography be prepared on each paper to provide references and general introductions to the various activities of the Society. E.B Sayles gave an introduction to archeological sites near Abilene and it was suggested by the President that the compilation of an archeological site map be prepared. In following business meetings, programs were presented regularly. The initial members continued to meet in Dr. Ray's office in Abilene for several years and in Abilene, TX for the

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

TAS Early Days

following ten years. Dues were set at \$3.00. There are many more "firsts" to tell you about in subsequent newsletters. The information in this article has been gleaned from the original minutes of the Society.

The story of TAS had just begun and in 2028 the Society will celebrate 100 years of archeological work in Texas. We plan to commemorate the centennial celebration with fanfare and fun. You can help in many ways but at this time we ask you to search through your own TAS

archives and memories and help us collect historical artifacts and documents to be displayed during the event.

We are not asking for anything right now because we still have a few years to go. Plan to let us know if you have access to items that TAS members would be excited to view or read. When we receive anything from you it will be stored safely and with care. TAS is moving significant documents to the Briscoe in Austin.

Contacts: paulavastine@gmail.com or Jamie.ross@txarch.org

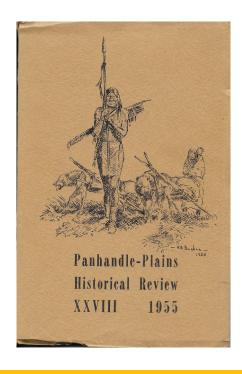
TAS Early Days: Another Treasured Resource

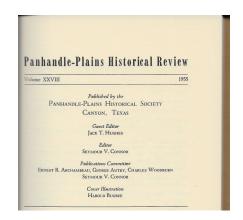
Editor's Note: Those early days of TAS have been chronicled and celebrated in several publications through the years. The issue cited below is of particular interest because of who wrote the articles, as well the content and scholarship demonstrated by the careful wording of each article. Jack T. Hughes served as the Guest Editor and Floyd V. Studer wrote the first article, entitled "Texas Archeological Society"¹, which is a detailed review of the original organizational efforts to establish a Society. Mr. Studer is recognized as being the avocational archeologist who discovered the Alibates Quarry in the Texas Panhandle. He also guarded the location of the Quarry for

thirty-five years.2

After reading Paula's article, my curiosity took control. What might I have? This original issue of the PPHR, which is a priceless plethora of archeological efforts of that time, is in a bookcase at my home, tucked away among other treasures. The point of all of this is to encourage each of you to begin to check your own resources, as Paula requests, for items that are pertinent to the history of the TAS. One hundred years of archeological research, and all that entails, is a gigantic reason to celebrate.

Panhandle-Plains Historical Review XXVIII 1955





References

¹Studer, Floyd V. (1955). Texas Archeological Society.

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²Fred Rathjen, "Studer, Floyd V.," *Handbook of Texas Online*, Published by the Texas State Historical Association. Published: 1976 TID: FST84

2023 TAS Field School Scholarships Are Available

Each scholarship recipient receives: The Field School registration fee will be covered for the scholarship recipient, and that person will receive a dig kit containing the tools needed for excavation. In addition, that person will receive a Field School T-shirt. Lodging space will be provided in the TAS campground. Scholarship recipients must bring their own tents and camping gear; a list of recommended equipment will be provided. Rest facilities are port-o-cans and open air showers. Breakfast and dinner will be provided from the TAS camp kitchen at no charge to the scholarship recipient. While the recipient must provide his/her own lunches, TAS will donate ice for his/her cooler. Scholarships may include partial reimbursement for the expenses of persons traveling to Field School. Reimbursement for long-distance travel may be restricted, determined by the distance and availability of funds.

The TAS Multicultural committee, in conjunction with the Collegiate and Diversity subcommittees, oversees the raising of funds for and the administration of the scholarship programs offered by the Society. The Committee operates under advisement of the Executive Committee and within the limits of donated funds. Tony Lyle is the current Chair.

A streamlined application is available here. Primary support for these scholarships has historically been from the state association for professional archeologists (the Council of Texas Archeologists), cultural resource management firms, and individual members of the Society. More detailed information is available on the TAS website about the scholarship opportunities.

Donors to the TAS will be announced in the Summer issue of this newsletter.

Your continued support of the TAS programs is deeply appreciated.

SHUMLA Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Discounted Prices for Spring SHUMLA TREKS

Sunday May 7, 2023: Comstock, TX



"Guided Tour to Running Horse Shelter and Seminole Canyon State Park Visitor Center Museum" with archaeologist Katie Wilson sponsored by Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center, meets at Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site Visitors Center, US-90, Comstock, Texas 9:30 am. \$60.

Saturday May 20: Dryden, TX

"Guided Tour to Meyers Springs Rock Art Site and Historic Fort" with archaeologist Katie Wilson sponsored by Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center, meets at Meets in Dryden, Texas, Intersection of TX-349 and US-HWY 90 then caravans to Meyers Springs Ranch 10 am. \$120.

Learn more and register at www.shumla.org/shumlatreks/. Contact SHUMLA via email treks@shumla.org.

Funding for organizational expenses has been provided to the Texas Archeological Society from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021.

Humanities Texas



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



The Texas Archeological Society promotes knowledge and preservation of Texas archeology.

The Society encourages: * scientific archeological exploration and research * the preservation and conservation of materials and sites * and the interpretation and publication of the data attendant thereto.

Ethics

Members of TAS must abide by all terms and conditions of the TAS Bylaws and all Federal and State antiquities laws or regulations. TAS does not condone the practice of buying and selling artifacts for commercial purposes.

TAS does not condone the disregard of proper archeological research techniques or the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data.

I accept the invitation to join and agree to support the mission of the Texas Archeological Society.

Please note our newsletter is now available in digital format only and is available on the TAS Website under the Our Voice tab.

If you wish to pay by credit card, please join or renew online at http://www.txarch.org

PLEASE PRINT	New membersh	nip	☐ Renew membe	rship
First Name:		Last I	Name:	
Family members (required for Fam	ily, Contributing	, Supporting	յ, and Patron Membership	s)
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mail to the address below:

TAS Business Office Texas Archeological Society Department of Anthropology Texas State University

601 University Drive

San Marcos, Texas 78666-4684

Completion of this membership form and payment of dues indicates the member's agreement with the goals and mission of the **Texas Archeological Society.**

TAS Business Office

Email: tasoffice@txarch.org

Website: http://www.txarch.org