

Southern Texas Archaeological Association



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41ME 147

Emergency Salvage Excavation- Update

Article by Joe Beavin

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2006 Elected Board

Chairman - Clint McKenzie
Vice-chair - Bruce Moses
Secretary – Lynn Yakubik
Treasurer – Cathy McCool



41ME147 unit A6 B6 / Level 36 350 – 360 cmbs.

STAA has continued to perform salvage excavations of discrete cultural features exposed in a cut bank along Hondo Creek in Medina County. The recent rains are a clear indicator of why this salvage work was necessary!

Excavations have continued in units A6 and B6 on an exposed cut bank above Hondo Creek. Heavy rains have hampered progress and while on a couple of occasions flood waters have reached the base of the units, luckily there has been no damage.

We had excavated down to the top of Feature No. 5 at approximately 3.5 meters below the surface. We encountered a nearly complete Andice above the basin shaped hearth but not apparently associated with the hearth.

// ...recent rains are a clear indicator of why this salvage work was necessary! //

However, a Gower-Uvalde type projectile point was also found near the top and center within the hearth. On the north edge of the hearth was a very large charcoal specimen, roughly 3 cm thick and 15 cm in length. Several samples were taken and they will be sent for radiocarbon dating. Soil samples were also taken from the interior of the feature. After documenting the characteristics of the hearth, we proceeded to excavate to what appeared to be a small hearth, Feature No. 15, which was approximately 40 cm below Feature No. 5.

Cultural materials were present down to that concentration of FCR (fire cracked rock). After further excavation it was found that the FCR were only on the face of the unit and not associated with a larger unexposed hearth. More than likely the FCR were all the remained of a hearth that had been previously eroded away into Hondo Creek. After 3 more 10 cm levels of sterile sandy clay soil, flakes were present for the next 2 levels. We are encountering a much higher concentration of gravel now, with the presence of flakes. Unless the creek gets it first, we are expecting the "Big One" to pop out soon!

Cont'd. from Page 1 **More Eagle Bluff Survey Images**

Left:
A Gower
projectile
point

Right:
An intact
hearth
eroding
from the
fields.



2007 Annual Texas Archaeological Society Annual Meeting

Article by Kay Hindes

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) meets October 26-28, 2007 at the **Menger Hotel**, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio. Join archeologists to relate the results of your recent archeological investigations. Short talks, poster displays, and exhibits will relate intriguing details of the archeological work.

Professionals from around the state will meet on Friday at the Council for Texas Archeologists.

At **7 PM on Friday night** archeologists, **Kathleen Deagan** and **Mike Collins**, will be featured at the free public forum. Dr. Deagan will speak on the Spanish Colonial Era and Dr. Collins will address the search for the first Americans. Identification of artifacts will be lead by Tom Hester, Harry Shafer and Sue Turner.

Following the forum, professionals representing archeological consulting firms, agencies, and universities will provide career information and job opportunities.

On Saturday, October 27, papers and posters will be presented. Short talks on current work are encouraged. Presenters are invited to submit abstracts for consideration by September 1. Symposia titles and abstracts are due August 15. Presentation rooms will be equipped with PowerPoint projectors and laptop computers. Slide projectors will be made available upon request. Submit proposals to Harry Shafer, 212 Madison #5, San Antonio, Texas 78204, hshafer@satx.rr.com

Student scholarships are available. View www.txarch.org for more information on scholarships.

An exhibit/book room will be open during the meeting. At the Saturday evening banquet, Doug Owsley, physical anthropologist from the Smithsonian Institution, will talk about recent investigations at Jamestown.

Learn more about the conference at www.txarch.org.

Meeting coordinator is Kay Hindes kay.hindes@sanantonio.gov (830) 570-0138. Local hosts are the Southern Texas Archaeological Association and the Center for Archaeological Research at UTSA.

TAS Contact: Pam Wheat, Executive Director pwheat@vmpplus.com (800) 377-7240.

Other events already in the planning stages include business meetings, committee meetings, banquet and banquet speaker, favorites such as masquerade ball, book room, workshops, artifact identifications and silent auction. The silent action promises to have something for everyone. TAS and STAA folks have already started collecting donations so clean out those closets, visit those estate sales, purge your library of duplicate copies and put your talent to work to make that special item. The meeting offers the opportunity to socialize with old friends, meet new ones, hear talks on the latest research and investigations, and share our interest in the cultural heritage of Texas with the public.

Volunteers are needed. We'll have lots of jobs to fill so jump in early in order to help make the 2007 Convention one to remember!

To volunteer, contact one of the following:

Kay Hindes: 210-207-7306 or 830-570-0138 (mobile)

Clint McKenzie at 210-279-2855

Cathy McCool at 210-533-3177

Newly Developed Anthropology Program at Our Lady of the Lake University

Article by Dr. Jennifer Rice

Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) in San Antonio is proud to announce the recent development of its Anthropology Program. Students will be able to select from a wide range of anthropology courses beginning in the fall of 2007. Courses will be taught by Dr. Jennifer L.Z. Rice. One of Dr Rice's goals while at OLLU will be developing an Anthropology Minor, which will include a summer archaeological field school.

The Anthropology Program is part of OLLU's **Sociology Department within the College of Professional Studies**. For further information contact the **Sociology Department at 210-434-6711**, www.ollusa.edu, or jlrice@lake.ollusa.edu



2007-2008 Class Schedule:

Fall 2007:

- Human Osteology
- Archaeology of Mexico
- Magic, Ritual, & the Occult
- Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2008:

- Food and Culture
- Disease in Antiquity
- Introduction to Physical Anthropology
- Introduction to Archaeology

Planned Joint Meeting & BBQ with Hill Country Archaeological Association

Article by Clint McKenzie

STAA will be co-hosting a meeting with our friends in the Hill Country Archaeological Association.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2007 in Kerrville, Texas. The meeting will convene at the Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville beginning at 1:00pm.

Our featured speaker is our own Dr. Harry Shafer. The meeting will be immediately followed by a catered BBQ and an opportunity for fun and fellowship. The cost per person for the meeting **AND BBQ is just \$10.00 per person**. You may also bring your own drinks if you would like.

Please mark your calendars – and check the STAA calendar on our website for more details! If you have any questions, please contact **Clint McKenzie at 210-279-2855** or via e-mail at mcdmck@yahoo.com.

STAA will be sending out a meeting notice in early September with additional details and driving



SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Quarterly Meeting

Article by Bruce Moses

On July 21, 2007 in the **First Floor Auditorium of Building 160 at Southwest Research Institute**, The STAA Invite you to the Quarterly meeting.

□ **Dr. Nesta Anderson**—“Entrenched! Digging into the Archaeology of Main Plaza.”

Nesta Anderson will discuss the ongoing archaeological work occurring in downtown San Antonio with “Entrenched! Digging into the Archaeology of Main Plaza”. As an historian and historic archeologist with PBS&J's Cultural Resources Division in Austin , Dr. Anderson has more than 10 years of experience conducting historical archaeology and archival research in the field of Cultural Resource Management. This talk will provide an overview of the archaeological investigations that have been ongoing in Main Plaza since March 2007, with a focus on the discovery of a military entrenchment feature possibly associated with the Battle of the Alamo.

Dr. Anderson has supervised archeological studies and archival studies in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and the Bahamas. Hher area of expertise is the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean, specifically Louisiana and the Bahamas.

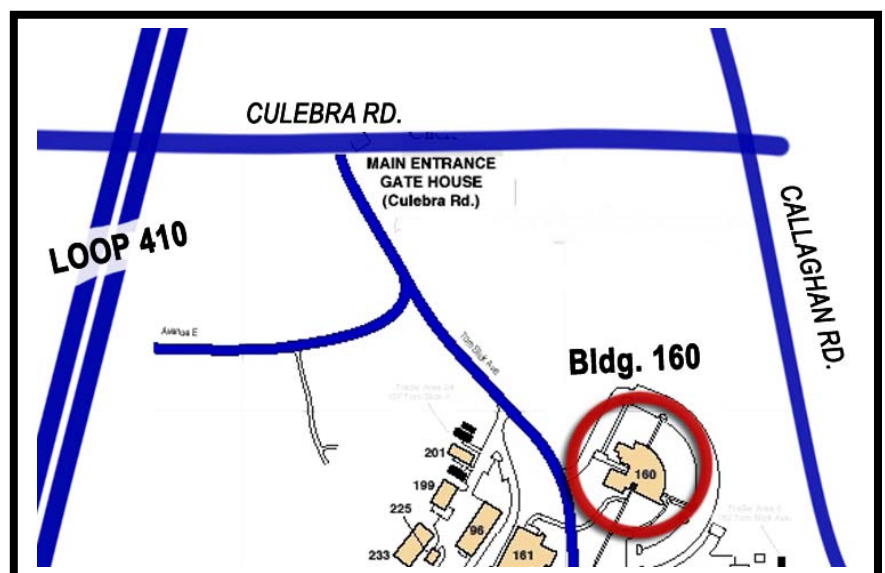
□ **John W. Arnn III** —“ Reconsidering Toyah Archaeology 1947-2007: Towards a Holistic Approach”

John Arnn, archaeologist with TxDOT's Department of Environmental Affairs, will also speak on the topic “Reconsidering Toyah Archaeology 1947-2007: Towards a Holistic Approach”. Mr. Arnn, a Ph.D. candidate, is currently a staff archaeologist for the Archeological Studies Branch at the Texas Department of Transportation. This talk presents the late prehistoric and the early contact period as a continuum, defining multiple cultural identities in the archaeological record, and links the regional distribution of the prehistoric Toyah material culture with the indigenous Tejas alliance of the early Colonial Period.

Mr. Arnn's experience includes many facets of archaeological investigation including the development of research designs and regional contexts, logistics and planning, staffing, archival research, survey, testing, data recovery, analysis, technical report writing (including design and editing) for a variety of research institutions, government agencies, and CRM firms.

For further information go to www.staa.org or contact **Grace Keyes** at 431-2280 or gkeyes@stmarytx.edu

Southwest Research Institute, Building 160 Auditorium is located on 6220 Culebra Road, between Callaghan Rd. and Loop 410...see map for details.



Please bring a valid ID to the gate for identification

...Cont'd on Page 5

Documentation Report – Battle of Medina Survey *Article by Clint McKenzie*



Cont'd. from Page 4 **Meeting Information**

The STAA was recently contacted and asked to run a survey on several pieces of private property adjacent to the recently dedicated "Battle of Medina" Historical Marker in northwest Atascosa County. The survey took place on the morning and afternoon of June 10, 2007.

STAA worked in conjunction with Dr. Gregg Dimmick, author of "The Sea of Mud" (which documented the retreat of a portion of the Mexican forces after the Battle of San Jacinto), and a number of interested locals, property owners, and metal detecting enthusiasts. STAA provided the survey plan and directed the metal detecting sweeps across the subject properties. A total of approximately 40 individuals participated.

The survey produced no identifiable battle related artifacts but did demonstrate to participants the proper way to conduct a subsurface metal detecting survey as well as how to record finds using GPS. Despite the heat and humidity a good time was had by all.

There may be future opportunities for STAA to participate in surveys of other nearby properties.



TIME

11:00 – Noon: Registration & Social Hour
12:00 – Brief STAA Business Meeting
12:15 – 3:00 Featured Lectures+

REGISTRATION

\$5 Adults & children over 11
\$2 Children 11 and under
\$2 College Students with ID

*There will be an intermission between Lectures. **Refreshments and artifact displays** will be available before lectures and during intermission.

Collectors are invited to bring their artifacts for identification and display.

SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Check type of membership New Renewal, for the calendar year 20____

Type of membership:

- General (Member & Immediate family) _____ \$35.00
- Full Time Student (to age 23) _____ \$25.00
- Institutional _____ \$50.00

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL: _____ PHONE _____

May we place you on the e-mail notification list for upcoming events?
 YES _____ NO _____ (Your e-mail address will not be shared outside of STAA)

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletters by e-mail or by post?
 By e-mail _____ By post _____

OPTIONAL VOLUNTARY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

\$ _____ TO STAA MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND*
 \$ _____ TO STAA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND*

*Information on the Memorial Funds and the biographies of the individuals represented can be found on our website at www.STAA.org. If you wish to contribute in the memory of an individual named in the Memorial Fund, please write that name here: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
Please make checks payable to STAA, and mail to:

STAA
P.O. BOX 791032
SAN ANTONIO TX 78279-1032

You may also Renew on-line via PayPal. See our website at www.STAA.org for details.
 STAA is a 501(c)3 - Dues & Donations are tax deductible!

Southern Texas Archaeological Association

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johndes@talkingchair.com

Awards, Recognition, and Congratulations!

Tom and Lynda Hester are first time grandparents of a beautiful little girl, "Nonie" born on June 6th in Austin, Texas.

The Texas Historical Commission honored **Ellen Sue Turner** at their annual meeting on May 13th with The Curtis Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology. Curtis Tunnell was the former Texas State Archeologist and THC Director. The award recognizes outstanding lifetime accomplishments in archeological research and/or

preservation.

David Calame was the winner of the Texas Archaeological Association C.K. CHANDLER AWARD, given to the avocational archeologist who records the most sites during the course of a year.

Congratulations to our Field School Scholarship winners: **Courtney Carvajal, Jaclyn Welsh** and **Allison Walsh**.

STAA Membership Dues--- *Due Now!*

Please be sure to check your label for your membership status! If it says '07, this will be your final newsletter, so be sure to send in your renewal.

Please place the enclosed invoice with your bills to be paid and send your renewal soon to to the STAA P.O. Box.

Email membership@staa.org if you

have any membership related questions.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
WWW.STAA.ORG

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