



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

February 2012

C.A. Maedgen voted in for third CVAS term

With a large crowd at the January 26th meeting, votes were cast for first temporarily suspending for one year the rules limiting the presidency to two terms and second to vote C.A. Maedgen in as president for a third term. C.A.'s leadership of CVAS through his two years is evidenced by the growing membership in our organization, also reported to be the highest ever during the meeting. Callan Clark, newly elected vice-president, ably presided over the meeting and the elections.

Larry Riemenschneider voted in as continuing CVAS Director

An additional vote was taken by the CVAS membership at the recent meeting to reelect Larry Riemenschneider as Director of CVAS. Larry's guidance and archeological experience has been invaluable to CVAS over the many years in heading up events and archeological projects. We are lucky to have him and his willingness to continue as our director.

Barbara Barton to talk at Feb 23rd Meeting

Local author, Barbara Barton, will speak at the Feb 23rd meeting. Her topic will be the history of Christoval and stagecoaches in the Concho Valley. Barbara is author of eight books on the history of the Concho Valley. One of those books is 'Stagecoach Lines & Freighters of West Texas,' making her a renowned expert in this piece of history. Barbara, a member of the Tom Green Historical Society, has also been a long-time collaborator with CVAS on various projects in the Concho Valley. You can visit her website at: <http://bartonbooks.net>



Archeology Fair

The 'YesterYears Revisited' Archeology fair hosted by the Concho Valley Archeological Society and Fort Concho is an important tool in getting young people and adults excited and aware about the local history and archeology of the Concho Valley. This is why Ray and I have decided to volunteer to manage the fair this year.

The goals for the fair this year 2012 are: 1.) teach young people and adults about the local history and archeology of the Concho Valley through activities for the young people and adults and new exhibits spanning through the geological and fossil record to modern time; 2.) explain to landowners and private citizens how the Federal and State laws pertaining to archeology affect both private and public lands; 3.) emphasis to landowners the importance of recording and preserving archeological sites for future generations, explaining that these sites are non-renewable resources and, once disturbed, cannot be restored; 4.) explain to young people, adults, and local landowners the mission statement of the Concho Valley Archeological Society; and 5.) get the community more involved with the fair and the CVAS.

Ray and I are both looking forward to a great year for both the CVAS and the Archeology Fair.

Archeology Fair Co-chairmen,
Callan Clark and Ray Thiess

Big Bend outing set for Feb 24th—26th

Hi All,

I have a trip planned on February 24th - 26th to Big Bend. We will camp at Chisos Basin. This trip will be unusual in that we will be guided on a hike to a dinosaur bones site and a nearby fossil site. While hiking to those sites, we will pass through a ghost town on Tornillo Creek. The following day we will revisit a fairly new site called Swirl Tinaja, which has a grave, cavalry camp and heavy Indian use. We will also visit Crouton Springs pictographs.

All the hiking will be easy, fairly flat desert. The only cause for postponement will be rain or extreme cold. Even though this trip is a CVAS sponsored trip, it is a non-club trip. So bring friends if you like. We currently have reservations for camp sites #22, 23, 24, 25. If interested, let me know and I will get back with you and provide more details. For reservations of additional campsites the number is 877-444-6777. See you on the trail...

Jack Woodrow: 325-942-9153



Hayrick outing

Callan Clark is scheduling an outing to the old Hayrick town site each Saturday in February (18, 25) and March 3rd. Only 5—7 people will be allowed to come out each time. We will meet at the Bronte Stripes at 8:30 a.m. and depart from there at 9 a.m. The drive to the site is approximately 15 minutes.

The work to be done is essentially metal detecting, marking and GPSing. Callan plans to choose a bounded area each weekend and have members traverse the area in a line, marking each spot of strong detection with a flag. We will then return to dig the artifacts, allowing them to be annotated to the spot with his GPS numbering system.

Through multiple trips to this site and evaluation of Google Earth imagery, Callan and Tom Ashmore have been able to determine the general town site boundaries. However, due to the amount of artifacts and metal detecting hits we have encountered so far we need to dedicate focused searches over smaller areas to try to further define the building locations.

Please bring a sack lunch, water, metal detector, digging tools. If you have additional metal detectors that can be loaned out to members, please bring those. Callan needs to determine how many to expect each weekend, so please contact him via email at callan_clark@yahoo.com or 325-473-3262. We will continue to remind members via email each week of the upcoming dig in order to check on the number of volunteers for the weekend.



Artifact Quiz: 16" tall, when this device was new the circular parts on the upper right had small nets attached to them.

Answer on page 5

Please don't forget that annual dues. The new application form with the new mailing address is on the back of this newsletter or you can pay at the meeting to our new treasurer, Peter Norris.

Identification Day lets public present archeological discoveries

dailytexanonline.com, 23 Jan 2012, Christina Noriega

The biannual Identification Day at UT's Texas Memorial Museum brings lines of people with suitcases, boxes and strollers carrying fossils, artifacts and minerals with the hope of shedding light on their discoveries.

Chris Lintz is an archaeologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, one of many scientists that come to the Texas Memorial Museum to identify archaeological and geological findings for Identification Day.

"I had one person show up that had a frame of very early points going back ten to nine thousand years, a whole frame full of them," Lintz said, referring to a batch of arrowheads a man found on his own property.



Lintz said it is important for people not to change or disturb archaeological sites.

"It's a natural thing to want to discover and dig things up," Lintz said. "In the process you're destroying the context and the fabric of the archaeological sites that help us understand the associations."

Lintz said Identification Day also provides resources for people on how to protect the environment when they are looking for artifacts.

"We help people get that message across too by distributing Web site information and booklets," Lintz said.

Lintz said he encountered one of the more unusual objects to have entered the museum on Identification Day.

"There was one year when a man brought a case full of rare flint that he had found in his front yard," Lintz said. "I later visited the site and ultimately wrote a 30-page publication on the unusual flint."

Pamela Owen, senior paleontology educator and director of Identification Day, said Identification Day is a great way for children to become interested in learning about archaeological issues.

"It helps to get kids outside, interested in nature and to care for the geological history or the paleontological history or the living animals and plants," Owen said. "It's also a chance to get them interested in interacting with actual scientists."

Amelia Rose, a Westlake high school student, attended Sunday's Identification Day to review fossils with the Paleontological Society of Austin.

"I like looking at all the fossils because people bring in stuff from out of town and places I haven't been to," Rose said. "It's good to see the variety."

CVAS Meeting dates

February 23rd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th, October 25th, November 15th, December 13th.

All meeting dates are for the Living History Stables Classroom with exception of July, November, and December. July and December are scheduled for the Commissary Building and November is scheduled for Officer's Quarters #8.

****2012 Archeology Fair: October 13th****

CVAS/Iraan Pecos River outing

C.A. Maedgen

CVAS members traveled to Iraan, Texas on Saturday January 28th to see archaeological remains along the Pecos River. Our members, as well as Iraan Archaeology Society members, had a beautiful day after recent rains to hike the Pecos and to observe middens partially buried by alluvial soil from Pecos River floods. Also, scattered burnt rock was observed along with abundant flint debitage. The area hiked was a continuous occupation zone as evidenced by the burnt rock, middens, and scattered flint. Some of the gullies leading to the Pecos revealed burnt rock eroding from the



Perdiz point

walls as well as a few clam shells also eroding from the walls. Some of the members found broken pieces of what once was a dart point or a some other stone tool used by Pecos River man. One almost complete Perdiz dart point was found and was eagerly examined by all. All of us agreed that we were probably the first to handle the Perdiz since ancient man broke it after harvesting a rabbit or a bird.



While in the field we all were able to examine a rusty spur and a cache of ranch tokens which were found in prior days along the opposite bank of the Pecos. The tokens were indeed a mystery. Some theories are that (1) the tokens might have been issued to the ranch hands and were then used to purchase items from the ranch store or (2) the tokens would be handed over by the ranch foreman when a sheep shearer would finish

shearing sheep so at the end of the day he would know how much money he had coming. This cache of 18 or so tokens was probably lost or buried.



Burnt rock

This day was a great outing and one in which we all walked away with a better grasp of how ancient man lived along the Pecos. It is for sure that the Pecos is indeed a beautiful site and a treasure to all. Come join us on our next trip.



Pecos River



Metate



1910 school house



Remains of prehistoric hut found in San Antonio

<http://indiancountrynews.net>, by John W. Gonzalez, January 2012

About 3,500 years ago, when the Bronze Age was ending in Europe and the Olmec civilization was thriving in Mexico, natives in San Antonio were living off the land using primitive tools, as they had been for thousands of years.

Signs of ancient human settlements have been found elsewhere in Texas, some more than 10,000 years old. And now there's evidence that about 1500 B.C. – three millennia before the Spanish Conquest – natives were building structures along the San Antonio River.

Last month, workers preparing Mission County Park for construction found evidence of one such building while searching for a previous location of nearby Mission San Jose, which they never located. What they did uncover – and then reburied after preliminary investigation – were remains of a prehistoric hut that burned down but left significant clues.

The archaeological find, verified by carbon dating, was disclosed to Bexar County commissioners in a discussion of the ongoing \$5.2 million park redevelopment. Betty Bueche, who manages county facilities, said the structure dates from the Late Archaic Period that spanned from 3000 to 1000 B.C. Evidence is being analyzed by the state archaeologist and the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research.

“It adds to the cultural importance of this park, and it's determined to be the third-oldest-known structure in the state of Texas, so it's in its own category in prehistory. It is at least as important as a mission,” Bueche told the court.

Bueche elaborated on the discovery but declined to disclose its precise location, citing fears of tampering. “It's all underground. There's nothing to see. We've covered it back up,” she said.

Officials are waiting on a second round of carbon dating to establish when the structure burned. Then the state archaeologist will review that information as part of a report being prepared by Steve Tomka, director of the UTSA center. Tomka isn't authorized to disclose his findings, including photographs of the site, until they've been reviewed by the state, Bueche said.

It's not known yet what the structure was used for, and its dimensions aren't certain. “All we know is that it burned,” Bueche said, but even so, the charred remnants could tell tales.

“In that timeframe, the structures that have been found previously are with bent poles, so they formed sort of a domed hut. These were done with upright posts, so this was a method of construction that until this find and the carbon dating that's been done, we didn't know dated that far back,” Bueche said.

Few artifacts have been found at the location. “There were some chips of flint that obviously had come from dart points, but very little. That's the thing – we're at a very preliminary stage” of the investigation, she said.

The county is poised to exploit the discovery as it redevelops the park and completes work on the river's Mission Reach. With further research planned, officials eventually could make the ancient site part of the park's educational programming.

No similar structures have been found in the region and until now the area's oldest known structures were from the colonial period. In Louisiana, manmade mounds from the Late Archaic era have been preserved.

“We want to illustrate that the occupation of this area extended far earlier than when the Spaniards arrived, and that there is a cultural continuum from the occupation of the Native American groups, to the arrival of the Spaniards, to modern day,” Bueche said.

In the meantime, officials hope to preserve what's there and avoid damage from construction and curiosity seekers.

The discovery came as they were using historic records to try to locate and preserve any remnants of an earlier site for the San Jose mission. The current location is believed to be its third. The two previous churches were destroyed by floods.

“We had no idea that we would come across what we have come across,” Bueche said.



Artifact Quiz from page 2: Target ball thrower, before clay pigeons they used to practice shooting glass targets

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

Meeting Location

Please remember that our meetings are now in the classroom at the Fort Concho Living History Stables, **236 Henry O. Flipper St.** We enter through the side door.

2012 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Cell _____

Family members _____

Email _____

I pledge I will not intentionally violate the terms or conditions of any current or future state or local statute concerning cultural resources or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: CVAS, 4063 Green Meadow Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904

Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student or military N/C		<input type="checkbox"/>

(active military only)