



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

July 2017

STATE OF THE CVAS

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped at the Fort Concho 'Fun at the Fort': Allamay Schafer, Gayle Hovorak, Jack Woodrow, Fred and Eileen Braziel, and their granddaughter Megan Wilson. This could not have happened without y'all. I also wish to thank Carol Cummings and Evelyn Lemons for continuing to let CVAS be a part in this wonderful, educational event.

The Archeology Fair is coming up, September 23. We will need all the help we can get. Jack Woodrow will be cooking hamburgers or BBQ for fair volunteers, so, we will need extra hands to help with the Bow and Arrow, and Atlatl Throw. So far, the people who will be at fair: Blacksmith, Iraan Archeological Society, Time of Our Lives, Stephen F. Austin Traveling Trunk, Illuminated Threads, SAGHS, and West Texas Gold Prospecting. CVAS members who helped last year and can help again with your exhibit this year please let me know by calling (325)763-7361, or send me an email clarkc74@gmail.com, saying you will e there or can't this year.

Thank you very much.

Callan Clark
CVAS President

Reminder: No CVAS meeting in July

TAS Field School, 2017 at Camp Wood, Texas

Brownie Roberts

June 17, 2017. After loading our pickup truck with tent camping gear, archeology excavation tools, buckets and other equipment, CVAS members, Brownie Roberts and sister, Marcia Asel from Dallas drove South to Camp Wood, TX and the site of the TAS Field School. We arrived at the campsite in a shady grove of huge oak trees, and were greeted by our long-time TAS friend, with her group of family and three of her high school students. They were already set up, and had saved us a site.

Marcia and I soon had our tent up, chairs out, and gear ready for our 5:30 A.M. wake up call by Camp Boss Jack Pool, honking his auto horn persistently. We dressed quickly to go to breakfast and be back in time to drive to our site, ready to work until 1:00 p.m.

We joined 250+ other folks at the site of an old Spanish Mission San Lorenzo, built after the Mission at San Saba. Expectations were to continue the work initiated by the Principal Investigator, Tamra Walter, archeology professor from Texas Tech, and her students.

We met our crew chief, Glenn Osborne, a veteran PI for many Field Schools, and the other members of our crew. We marked off our 2m square unit and began to excavate, eventually confirming that we were exposing the floor of a possible structure associated with the Mission.

Several survey crews searched the neighboring ranch land for signs of Native American campsites. Talking with reluctant owners, and explaining TAS methods of acquiring knowledge about the earlier inhabitants, they were able to assure the ranchers that we do not keep the artifacts found, and we are respectful of their ownership and their land. As a result TAS may have access to additional sites next year.

The program for next month's CVAS meeting will include photos and comments by members who participated in TAS Field School 2017, including Brownie Roberts, Stephen Schooler, Arnetta Cooper, Callen Clark, Tim Brewster from Eden, and his son.



Crew chief: Glenn Osborne

TAS Field School

Houston Archeological Society team member diagramming the unit



CVAS member Marcia Asel

I met a man down in George West, south of San Antonio, that was somewhat of a collector. He showed me these two bones. He told me they are coyote bones and the area they came from was the coastal area, the area of the Karankawa Indians. He believed these bones were used as shaft straighteners. I've never heard of this being used in that manner, but it is a tribe I'm unfamiliar with and it makes sense to me.

Tom Ashmore, CVAS Vice President



San Angelo, TX - Administrators with the Texas Historical Commission are asking people to watch for "Marker Mayhem".

Markers like the one on Highway 87 near the Texas Agri-Life Center are being vandalized. It marks the Butterfield stage route that came through the area in the mid 1800's and was put up in 1928. Some spray-painted "monument to native genocide" on it.

If you see that markers or monuments have been vandalized you can report it to police or the Texas Historical Commission.



Butterfly Kisses & Moon Garden Wishes: Chanterella Butterfly Garden

Michelle Doss

Many of you have enjoyed the articles from Bella Oaks Ranch and even some yet have been a part of recording of the history of Bella Oaks Camp. As always, there are new surprises at Bella Oaks and I'd like to share one with you. We have learned many things along the way and it's been an incredible journey from the moment of recording the Indian Hearth, to all kinds of wonderful discoveries. Archeology always takes us to some pretty places, the Indians liked to camp at Bella and so do many things.

In the fall, I like to walk the property a few times a week for exercise and noticed the 'fluttering of butterflies,' in certain parts of the oak grove overlooking the draw. Hundreds of ' fluttering jeweled beauties,' were clinging to the trees. I wondered why they were there, what they were doing in all the clusters ? At sunset, they begin to fly in and choose their branches, upon approaching them, they don't seem bothered by us at all. They appeared to look like monarch butterflies.

Preparing for the night, they'd cling to small twigs that descend out over the creek area, they'd open and close their wings in a rhythmic sweetness. They are so beautiful and delicate and such a wonderful creation of the Lord.



Monarch's taste bad to predators and they taste and feel with their antennae. They can't fly if their body temperature is less than 86 degrees.

Monarch's can see UV light that humans cannot and their wings flap 300 to 720 per minute, slower than most butterflies.

Well busy as I have have been, I finally sent my video of butterflies, off for verification. Dr. Dara Satterfield , a 'butterfly expert,' with Smithsonian connections, verified what we thought was a 'Monarch Roost,' on the place. Apparently, they are a 'rare phenomenon.' The monarchs apparently, love the wildscape and it provides them a 'place to rest.' The monarchs 'cluster up,' and gather in canopy of the oak grove. These industrious Monarchs had established "a rest stop," on their long journey.

One Monarch can lay 250 eggs a day. They travel 50-100 miles each day and takes around 2 months to finish their journey to Mexico.

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Butterfly Kisses & Moon Garden Wishes: Chanterella Butterfly Garden

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Photo below, captured from the video, I'd forgotten about on my iphone. Last ones clinging and fluttering ever so slowly, conserving energy for their long voyage.



Monarchs come in October and roost awhile in our historic oaks along the draw. It's one of their stops on their famous 3000 mile journey Mexico. Last generation Monarchs, such as these, may live 8 months as they fly to Mexico, they are the longest living generation of Monarchs. Often called the super generation.

Butterflies need certain temperatures, water and habitat, especially in the West Texas heat, which can seem 'relentless,' at times. Always a challenge to grow anything at all, and I never expected these gorgeous monarchs, to visit yearly in the autumn and wanted to learn more.

The monarchs apparently love the wildscape and enjoy the soapberry trees and oaks that grow along the draw. They have become 'beautiful flowers in the canopy,' as they cling to the twigs that overlook the riparian woodland. The majestic oaks on the draw, providing the perfect microclimate, for their temporary visit. they are the longest living generation of Monarchs. Often called the super generation.

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I had no idea some sources say their numbers are down a whopping 80-90 %. As noted, their loss of habitat is huge. They are close to becoming endangered.

I wanted to make a difference and how much water can butterflies actually drink, right? Think in terms, of 'droplets.' The habitat was already there, they picked it and seemed to enjoy it, we think due to the nature of the historic oaks. (Several of our Southern Live Oaks are on the national register through "The Live Oak Society,") that grow on the place, we think, that maybe there was once a spring below this old grove. (The biggest oak trees at Bella Oaks are named: Blessing, Angel Rose, Dixie Belle, Chandelier, Georgia Rose, Adeline Rose, Carolina Rose, Savannah Rose, ranging from 14 foot around all the way down to 9 foot around. Your old live oaks have to be at least 8 foot around to make the cut for the Society.)

2017 ENC Expedition: The Final Chapter

aswtproject.wordpress.com, by Charles Koenig, February 23, 2017

Five years ago this past January, Steve and his graduate students Dan Rodriguez and Matt Basham launched the ASWT investigations within Eagle Nest Canyon. At the time Steve was helping Dan and Matt plan their thesis research, and Steve and Carolyn Boyd were just beginning to discuss having a joint dirt and rock art archaeological field school. Looking back it is hard to conceptualize, but that short 10-day trip in January 2013 launched arguably the most locally-intensive archaeological study ever conducted within the Lower Pecos Canyonlands.



Since 2013, ASWT has carried out significant excavations at Skiles Shelter, Kelley Cave, Horse Trail Shelter, Eagle Cave, and Sayles Adobe, as well as smaller scale testing at 41VV890 and Lonestar Bridge. Each one of these sites has yielded an incredible amount of archaeological data, and we are slowly beginning the long process of analysis and publication. We have wrapped up our work at all but Eagle Cave and Sayles Adobe and this season (2017) marks the final chapter of ASWT field work in Eagle Nest Canyon. (Not really, ASWT will be helping Texas State's newest archaeology professor, Dr. David Kilby, get to a running start in Bonfire Shelter this summer...but that is for another blog post.)



When we were planning for the ENC work, we established three overarching and ambitious research goals that we would strive to meet over the span of our research. These goals are: 1) understand the natural and cultural history of the canyon; 2) share what we learn with the professional archaeological community and the general public; and 3) preserve the sites and archaeological records for future generations. We are well on our way to accomplishing point one, and as field work wraps up we will continue to learn more about the natural and cultural history of the canyon. For point two, over the past five years we have given dozens of talks at local and regional archaeological meetings; we keep our work (mostly) current on social media; and we already have several theses and publications written about ENC with more on the way. The third point is in some ways the most difficult to achieve, and is one we are spending most of our time pursuing during the 2017 field season.

In order to preserve the sites for future generations, after excavations are complete we stabilize and backfill our units. Backfilling prevents damage that would occur from natural forces (erosion, plants, and animals) and visitors to the sites. At most of the sites our backfilling task is made "easier" by virtue of simply putting the stockpiled fill (i.e., backdirt) we excavated and screened back into the holes. At Sayles Adobe, for instance, once Tori finishes her final sampling in a few weeks we can easily move the piles of screened dirt back into the open excavation units. However, unlike the rest of the sites, there is no "easy" backfilling at Eagle Cave.

As we have discussed in several other blog posts, the main trench in Eagle Cave was not backfilled by the Witte Museum in the 1930's or by the University of Texas in the 1960's. Since the 1960's, the once vertical profiles within Eagle Cave slumped and collapsed into a massive depression (see Where Context is Crucial), destroying all intact deposits immediately surrounding the trench. Further, both the Witte and UT archaeologists screened their excavated dirt out near the dripline, and now nearly all of the sediment they removed has been lost down the talus slope. In other words, past Eagle Cave archaeologists left us a massive hole in the center of Eagle Cave without the backdirt to fill it back in.



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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.

2017 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, 132 Kilt Road, San Angelo, TX 76901

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

(active military only)